

HAMLIN, HANNIBAL

DRAWER 10B

CABINET

71.2009.000 03934



# Abraham Lincoln's Vice Presidents

Hannibal Hamlin

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Boston Transcript  
June 26, 1860

TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY IN THE CITY. Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, the Republican candidate for Vice President, arrived this morning by the Fall River train and went to the American House, where he is now domiciled for the day. We chanced to be at the Old Colony station when the steamboat train arrived, and observed that Hon. Edward Everett was present, evidently awaiting the arrival of some friend or relative. The two Vice Presidential candidates did not meet each other, and were not perhaps aware of each other's presence in the crowd; but we could not help thinking that both were fine specimens of the men of New England.

Mr. Everett is "our favored son," in more senses than one. He has had all the advantages of more than ordinary natural endowments, of classical education, and of every eminent position in the gift of his native State and of the supreme magistrate of the Union. He is genial, learned, eloquent. He is the highest type of the New England gentleman. Mr. Hamlin is a self made man. We can see him toiling as the printer's boy and the editor of the country paper; we see him the governor of Maine—that eldest daughter of Massachusetts; Senator of the United States, and now the candidate of a powerful party for the second office in the gift of the nation. He is the type of the New England self made man. Either of these distinguished sons of the North would fill the important post to which they are nominated with dignity and with honor.

**Has Mr. Hamlin any Black Blood in him?**

We had always supposed the story of Hamlin's Negro taint originated in some jealous Octobron at the South. It is traced, however to the New England editor of the Charleston *Mercury*; and we find an explanation of it in a letter from Washington to the New Orleans *Crescent* of last week:

"A letter was read to me last night from a gentleman living in Portsmouth, N. H., and giving the pedigree of Hannibal Hamlin. The writer says that Hannibal's great grandfather was certainly a mulatto. His grandfather, who had a brother named Africa, served in the war of the revolution as the captain of a mixed company of negroes and Indians, pocketed the pay of his troops, sold the wine and other necessities provided for the invalids, and left the army in disgrace. There is a tradition in the Hamlin family that a man one day overheard Hamlin's uncle, while looking at him as he lay in the cradle, exclaim: 'For God's sake will this d—d black blood never get out of the veins of our family!' Two gentlemen now in this city, who served with Hannibal in Congress, assure me that they always knew he had nigger blood in him. And this is the man chosen by the North to rule over us!"

The venerable ex-Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin, is enjoying life in his quiet way at his cosy home in Bangor. He has a big garden in which he delights to work, and his orchard and flower-pots are the pride and joy of Fifth street. Although Mr. Hamlin is 81 years of age, he is still able to walk 10 or 15 miles a day without much fatigue, and makes frequent trips to his old home at Paris Hill, Oxford county.

*B. Trans. 1855*  
**THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT.**

**The Hon.** Hannibal Hamlin, the Vice President elect, was chosen an honorary member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1855, and, agreeably to its requirements, made a statement of his genealogy. So much has been said on this point, and Mr. Hamlin has been so grossly and infamously slandered by Mr. Yancey and other disunionists, we copy the following letter now on file in the archives of the Society above named, in this city. The early experience of this gentleman was the same as that of thousands of young men in New England, who have risen to positions of honor, without the aid of powerful friends, or the advantages of high social position. Of course this letter was written without the most remote idea that it would ever be published, and its frankness is one of its greatest merits. It reads as follows:

HAMPDEN, ME., AUG. 24th, 1855.

Dear Sir: Agreeable to the requirements of the N. E. His. Gen. Society, of which I have been elected an honorary member, I submit the following statement:

My name is Hannibal Hamlin—born in Paris, County of Oxford, State of Maine, August 27th, 1809. Cyrus Hamlin was my father. He was born in Massachusetts. He died in Paris, Jan. or Feb. 1828, aged about 68. He was a surgeon and physician. He was clerk of the Courts for Oxford County for several years, and subsequently High Sheriff of the same county. I think he had more than twenty brothers and sisters. Four of the brothers were named Asia, Africa, Europe and America. Africa was a member of the Cincinnati Society.

My mother died about four years since, aged about seventy. Her maiden name was Anna Livermore, daughter of Deacon Elijah Livermore, of the town of Livermore in Oxford county. They were married about the year 1798. (If desirable I can obtain the exact dates of their birth, marriage and decease.)

I prepared myself for a collegiate education. The death of my father required my services at home, and I devoted myself to labor on the homestead until I was near twenty-one years old. I then went into a printing-office, having purchased an interest therein, where I remained something more than a year, working as a compositor. I then commenced the study of the law—was admitted to the Bar Jan. 1838—commenced practice at Hampden April 1833, and continued in the practice up to 1848.

I was a member of the House of Representatives in Maine for the years 1836, 1837, '38, '39 and '40. Was Speaker of the House in 1837, 1839 and 1840. Was also a member in 1847. Was a candidate for Congress in 1840, and was defeated by about two hundred and fifty majority in a poll of about fifteen thousand votes. Was elected in 1842 and re-elected in 1844. Was elected to the Senate in 1848 to supply the vacancy for four years, occasioned by the death of John Fairfield. Was re-elected in 1850 for the term of six years.

H. HAMLIN.

JOHN DEAN, Esq.,  
Sec. of New England His. Gen. Society.



Boston Transcript

Feb 20, 1861

---

BOS

---

**MR. HAMLIN AT WORCESTER.** The Vice President elect made the following address at his reception in Worcester yesterday. The Spy reports that he was received by a large and enthusiastic multitude at the railroad station, numbering about four thousand. In answer to the repeated acclamations of the crowd, Mr. Hamlin appeared on the platform of the car and spoke as follows:

*Men of Massachusetts:* Your generous tones speak truly from the heart of your ancient Commonwealth. You who are gathered here are the best representative people of intelligent productive labor, and the sentiments that animate your hearts are those which belong to the ancient fame of the old Bay State. (Cheers.) I know that you are sometimes charged in certain quarters with being a little fanatical upon the subject of human liberty. I fear the complaint is chronic; it comes down to you from 1776, and I have no apology and no defence to make for you, for I must own that I sympathize a little with it, springing, maternally and paternally, as I did, from a Massachusetts town. (Cries of "Good.") My friends, maintain like men, as men you are, the principles of the Old Bay State, and all will be well. Maintain and vindicate the dignity of manhood, and the dignity of labor, and all will be well. Liberty was rocked in its infancy in a Massachusetts cradle. Stand by it when liberty has grown to a full sized giant. You will not debase your own humanity and forfeit your own self-respect by honest manhood.

Here the train commenced moving, and Mr. Hamlin's speech was brought to an abrupt close. The multitude gave him three hearty cheers as the train moved on.



**H**ANNIBAL HAMLIN was born in Paris, Oxford County, Maine, August 27, 1809. He was prepared for college, but was compelled by the death of his father to take charge of the home farm until he was of age. He learned printing, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1833, practicing in Hampden, Penobscot County, until 1848.

He was a member of the legislature of his State from 1836 to 1840. In 1840 he received the Democratic nomination for member of Congress, and during the exciting Harrison campaign introduced the practice of joint debates into the State of Maine. In 1842 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected in 1844. In 1848 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, and was re-elected in 1851, but resigned in 1857 to be inaugurated Governor of the State of Maine. Less than a month afterward he resigned the governorship

as he had been again chosen Senator from his State, and served as such until January, 1861, when he resigned to become Vice President of the United States. In 1865 he was appointed collector of the port of Boston, resigning that office in 1866. He was, too, from 1870 until 1882 a regent of the Smithsonian Institute, eventually becoming the dean of the board. He was again elected and reelected to the United States Senate, serving from 1867 till 1881. In June, 1881, he was named Minister to Spain, but in the following year resigned and retired to private life.

Mr. Hamlin's career from a farmer's boy to Senator and Vice President reads like a romance. His services to his country have been of the most valuable kind. Secure in the past, silver crowned with age, he is awaiting the peaceful end of a career that has been most distinguished and most honorable.



## HAMLIN AND ANTI-SLAVERY.

Hannibal Hamlin's career is one of the most unique and interesting in American history. Born in 1809, in public life as early as 1836, a quarter of a century before the war, conspicuous all the time and influential first in the Democratic party and then in the Republican party, his public life was brilliant by service and venerable by age. A Democrat by early party affiliations, Hamlin was always a strong anti-slavery man. This feeling predominated him and in 1856 led him to forsake his old party associates. In a speech in the United States Senate June 12, 1856, in which he gave his reasons for changing his party allegiance, he said referring to the Democratic national convention of that year:

The convention has actually incorporated into the platform of the Democratic party that doctrine which only a few years ago met with nothing but ridicule and contempt here and elsewhere, namely: That the flag of the Federal Union under the constitution of the United States carries slavery wherever it floats. If this baleful principle be true, then that National ode, which inspires us all as on a battlefield, should be rewritten by Drake and should read:

"Forever float that standard sheet,  
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,  
With slavery's soil beneath our feet,  
And slavery's banner streaming o'er us."

As indicated in these remarks Hamlin was at the time merely opposed to the extension of slavery and not for extermination in the south. Mr. Hamlin's first meeting with Abraham Lincoln took place after the election of 1860. Upon invitation of President-elect Lincoln the vice president-elect came to Chicago where he found Mr. Lincoln awaiting him. "Have we ever been introduced to each other, Mr. Hamlin?" said Mr. Lincoln abruptly as the vice president entered his room. "No sir, I think not," was the reply. "That also is my impression," continued Mr. Lincoln; "but I remember distinctly while I was in Congress to have heard you make a speech in the Senate. I was very much struck with that speech, senator—particularly struck with it—and for the reason that it was filled, chock-up with the very best kind of anti-slavery doctrine." Well now," replied Mr. Hamlin

laughingly, "that was very singular, for my one and first recollection of yourself is of having heard you make a speech in the House—a speech that was so full of good humor and sharp points that I, together with others of your auditors, was convulsed with laughter." The friendship between the two men was from the first cordial and Lincoln's confidence in Hamlin continued unshaken until the end of his life.

## LINCOLN AND HAMLIN.

### How They Dodged the Would-Be Assassins Prior to the Inauguration.

[From the Springfield Republican.]

A few days before the inauguration Mr. Hamlin met the President elect at the Astor House in New York. There was a great, though suppressed, excitement in the metropolis and throughout the country, and threats had been freely made by Southern fire-eaters that neither Lincoln, Hamlin nor any other—Abolitionist," should ever be permitted to occupy the White House. While the President and Vice President elect were at the Astor House wild rumors of this sort which had been flying around for weeks seemed to take tangible shape, at least it is a fact that during their short stay in the city one of the highest of the police authorities brought to them detailed and circumstantial information of a plot which had been entered into to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. Neither of the gentlemen was seriously alarmed by this statement; still it was determined that no risks should be run. In furtherance of this conclusion, it was authoritatively stated and reported in the newspapers that the President and Vice President elect would travel together on a certain train, from New York directly to Washington. Instead of this, however, Mr. Hamlin went to Washington alone, on a train other than the one which had been designated in the newspaper report. He journeyed safely and without disturbance in an ordinary sleeping-car until he reached Baltimore. There, though the hour was very early in the morning, he found that there were scores of people in the depot, and many rough-looking characters, with oaths and threats, boarded the train with the outspoken intention of taking a look at the "nigger-lover, Abe Lincoln." Finding that Mr. Lincoln was not on the train, however, and not recognizing Mr. Hamlin, who was lying quietly in his berth, they made no further demonstration, and the train went on, reaching Washington in due time. Mr. Lincoln, it might be well to add, proceeded from New York to Harrisburg, and from that point went to Washington, where he arrived safely early upon the morning after Mr. Hamlin. The President elect was met at the Baltimore and Ohio depot by Mr. Washburne and Senator Seward, and by them accompanied to Willard's Hotel, where he remained quietly until the day of the inauguration. On that day it is notable that neither Mr. Hamlin nor Mr. Lincoln shared the fear of an attack upon them which was held by many of their friends. Mr. Hamlin said that on the memorable occasion in question Mr. Lincoln was "calm, quiet and serene as a summer day." Nor was the Vice President elect in any way disturbed by the threats and rumors which filled the capital. Subsequently, however, during the conversations with Gen. Scott, who was known to have been greatly alarmed for the safety of the incoming President and Vice President, Mr. Hamlin was led to believe that the sense of security which he enjoyed was only to be attributed to a lack of knowledge, the possession of which might have made him quite as uneasy as was Gen. Scott and others.

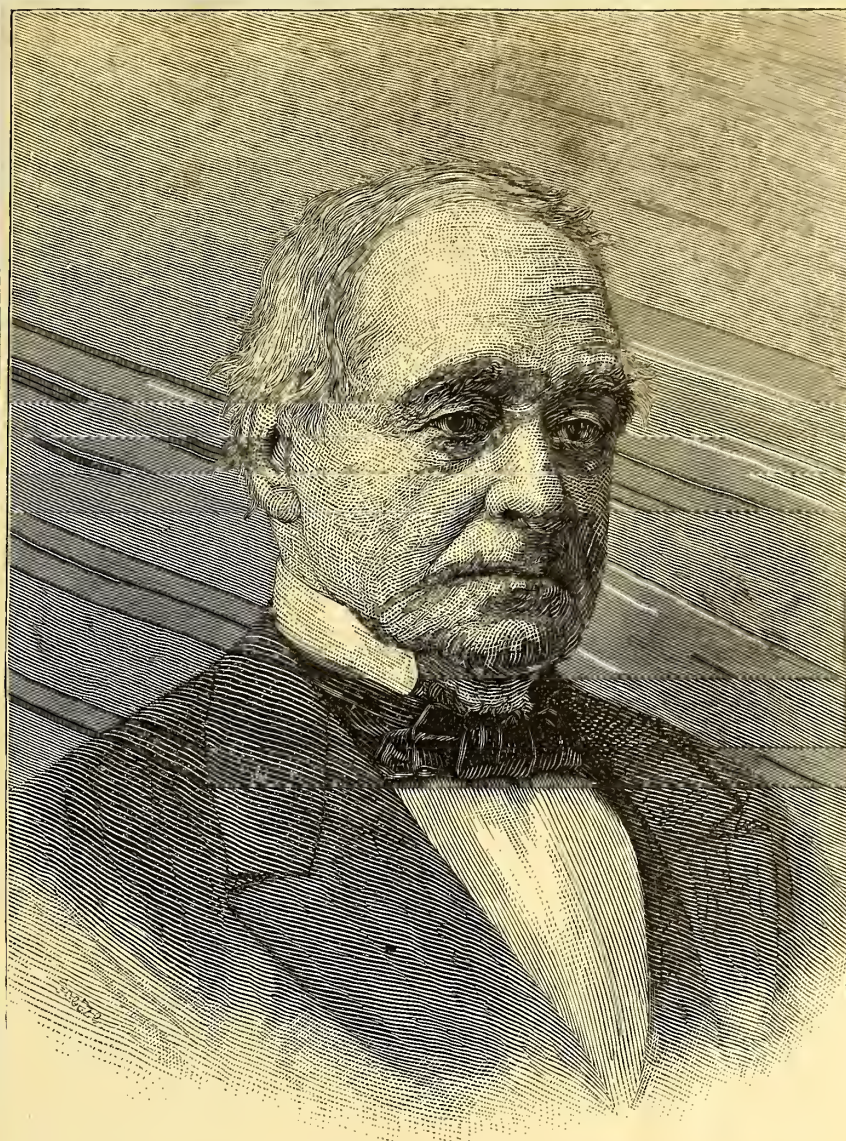
## Hamlin and Lincoln.

Half of the republican ticket of 1860 still walks the streets of Bangor or gambols in overcoatless glee among the snows of a Maine winter. He is only 78 years old, hearty as a moose, and lively grasshopper. He knows more about political life and management than most other men, as has been in office of one kind or another most of the time for fifty years. He is popular in his manners and likes to catch fish. If the republican party wants to eat of the husks of memory there is its chance. Seek old Hannibal Hamlin and stick on with him Bob Lincoln, of Illinois, or Walden Lincoln, of Massachusetts, or J. L. Lincoln, of Providence, or any other Lincoln, and there you have the old ticket, a little restored and repaired. Hamlin and Lincoln! Hurrah, boys, hurrah! What's the malady with that?—N. Y. Evening Sun.

**Hannibal Hamlin.**

Ex-Vice-President Hamlin died suddenly on the Fourth of July<sup>1891.</sup> at his residence in Bangor, Maine. He was the first Republican Vice-President, and elected under Lincoln in 1860, and his career of public life is unique. He was almost continuously in office for a period of nearly fifty years. He belonged to an era already historic, being one of the last of the anti-slavery generation of statesmen, and yet he was still in the Senate with its leaders of to-day. Hannibal Hamlin was born on August 27, 1809, in Paris, Maine, his father being Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, who served as clerk of the courts and high sheriff of the county. Mr. Hamlin was admitted to the bar at twenty-four years of age, and after a short residence at Hampden, a village near Bangor, he was elected to the Legislature by the Democrats. This was the beginning of his political career, which ended in 1883. He was elected to five successive Legislatures, beginning with that of 1836, and in the last three was Speaker of the House. In 1840 he ran for Congress and was defeated. In 1843 he ran again and was elected, and re-elected in 1844. In 1848, at the death of Senator Fairchild, Mr. Hamlin was elected to serve the unexpired term of four years in the Senate. His pronounced views against the extension of slavery turned the pro-slavery Democrats against him, and with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, in May, 1854, his connection with the Democratic party practically ended. Like other Democrats of his school he now found himself in natural association with the Republican party, then coming into existence. He was elected Governor of Maine, and inaugurated on January 7, 1857. Less than ten days after he was elected Senator, and on the 20th of February resigned the office of Governor, and returned to the Senate on March 4. In 1860 he was elected Vice-President under Abraham Lincoln. He was in 1869 elected United States Senator and served for twelve years. Since 1883 Mr. Hamlin has lived quietly at home. Mr. Hamlin leaves a widow and three sons. He was married twice. His sons are General Charles Hamlin, of Bangor; Hannibal Emery Hamlin, of Ellsworth, Maine; and Frank Hamlin, a young lawyer of Chicago.





HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN, who was Vice-President of the United States when Abraham Lincoln was President, has outlived by nearly a generation the majority of those who held high position when the war of the rebellion was waged. And of those who were in the United States Senate when he was first elected to that body, only one was left in 1888, Jefferson Davis, and he died that year or the next. This veteran statesman, therefore, may be said to have outlived all of his contemporaries. He was a cheerful man, however, and lived in the present, and therefore did not grow lonely at being left so long. He was born in Oxford County, Maine, in August, 1809, the son of a farmer. When about prepared to enter college his father died, and he was obliged to abandon his college career and take charge of the farm. When he was relieved of this responsibility he learned printing, and afterwards studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1833, and settled in Hampden, Penobscot County, Maine. There he had his home the rest of his life. In 1836 he began his political career, which lasted for almost half a century. In that year he was elected to the State Legislature, in which he served for four years, being Speaker for the last two years. In 1840, the year of the "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" campaign, Mr. Hamlin ran for Congress as a Democrat. In this contest, in which he was defeated, he introduced for the first time in his State joint debates between the candidates. In 1842 he again ran for Congress, and this time was elected. The next term also came to him. Before it was finished Senator John Fairfield died, and



Mr. Hamlin was chosen for the unexpired term of four years. In 1851 he was re-elected to the Senate, and served till 1857. He had during this term severed his relations with the Democratic party, and became a Republican. He was bitterly opposed to the extension of slavery. He was nominated in 1857 as Republican candidate for Governor of Maine, and was triumphantly elected. He was chosen a little while later for another term in the United States Senate, and resigned his Governorship.

This incident recalls what Mr. Hamlin said when Governor Hill had been elected Senator from New York, and though the term for which he was elected had begun, he still held the Chief Executive's place in Albany. "It may be legal," said Mr. Hamlin, "but I always made it a rule to resign one office when I was elected to another." And, singularly enough, he was repeatedly elected to office before the term of one office had expired—twice as Senator, once as Governor, once as Vice-President, and also appointed Minister to Spain while still in the Senate.

In 1860 he was elected Vice-President on the ticket with Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Hamlin was in the Senate when Mr. Lincoln was in the House, but they were never introduced to each other until after the election in November, 1860. Then Mr. Hamlin called on Mr. Lincoln in Chicago. Each then recalled having heard the other speak in Congress. They were good friends during the whole of Mr.

Lincoln's first term, and Mr. Hamlin has testified over and over again to his regard and affection for the great chief. He has said

repeatedly that he was one of the few Vice-Presidents who was on cordial relations with his chief. He attributed this to the fact that he did not overrate the importance of his office, and annoy the President by a desire to do more than his constitutional duties required.

Mr. Hamlin was always a plain man, and very democratic in his manners. When the election which General McClellan contested with Mr. Lincoln was over, the bearers of the electoral votes of the various States brought them to Washington and deposited them with the Vice-President. A Mr. Templeton, of Newark, was intrusted with the votes of New Jersey. He hired a special train, filled it with guests, and went to Washington. The next day he appeared in the Vice-President's room with all his followers. Bowing low, he said:

"I have the honor, Mr. Vice-President, to deliver to you the electoral vote of New Jersey. New Jersey, sir, casts nine votes for that splendid soldier and patriot, George B. McClellan, for President. New Jersey, sir, casts nine votes for that eminent statesman and gentleman, George H. Pendleton, for Vice-President."

"The devil she does!" exclaimed Mr. Hamlin; and then he resumed his writing, and the imposing audience was over.

President Johnson appointed Mr. Hamlin Collector of the Port in Boston. He did not hold that long, however, as in 1869 he was again elected to the Senate from Maine. At the expiration of this term he was again elected, and remained in the Senate till 1881, when he accepted an appointment as Minister at Madrid. He staid only a little while in Spain. When he came home from there, he retired permanently from public life. His whole long record is without a blemish.

In personal appearance Mr. Hamlin in his younger days was a tall, straight, athletic-looking man, and almost as dark as an Indian. As we have been accustomed to seeing him during the last twenty years, his hair has been white, and his cheeks more pallid, but up to his eighty-first year he was quite erect in his carriage, and walked with a springy step. One of his peculiarities was that until very late in life he had never worn an overcoat. His black broadcloth swallow-tail had enough warmth in it for him, and he failed entirely to understand why younger men had to bundle themselves up to keep warm.

In a speech made in 1888 Mr. Hamlin gave the following account of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation: "The emancipation proc-

lamation was the crowning glory of his life. That proclamation made 6,000,000 freemen. It was the act of Abraham Lincoln, not the act of his cabinet; it was the act of Abraham Lincoln, and of nobody else. He was slow to move—much slower than it seemed to us he should have been; much slower than I wanted him to be. But he was right. I urged him over and over again to act; but the time had not come in his judgment. One day I called at the White House, and when I was about to leave he said to me: 'Hamlin, when do you start for home?' 'To-day.' 'No, sir.' 'Yes, sir.' 'No, sir.' 'Well, Mr. President, if you have any commands for me, of course I will stay.' 'I have a command for you. I want you to go with me to the Soldiers' Home to-night. I have something to show you.' We went to the Soldiers' Home that night, and after tea he said: 'Hamlin, you have often urged me to issue a proclamation of emancipation. I am about to do it. I have it here, and you will be the first person to see it.' Then he asked me to make suggestions and corrections as he went along—a most delicate thing to do, for every man loves his own child best. I suggested the change of a single word, saying, 'Now, Mr. President, isn't that your idea?' And he said 'Yes,' and changed it at once. I made three suggestions, and he adopted two of them. Now what I desire to show you is this, the proclamation of emancipation was the proclamation of Abraham Lincoln."

In February, 1891, at the dinner of the Republican Club, Mr. Hamlin finished his speech with these words: "Time has not staled nor custom cloyed my love for the great Republican party, and I am grieved when I am compelled to stand here and speak of recent national legislation. It has cast a shade of sadness over these later days of my life. The treachery, the dishonest practice, and the degraded condition of some of our own Senators have appalled me."

JNO. GILMER SPEED.

## TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS.

JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE AND HANNIBAL HAMLIN.



JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE was the first of ten of the public men of the country whose occupancy of the Vice-Presidency has given me an opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of their personal characteristics, as well as some judgment of their ability and merit as statesmen. He was elected Vice-President, with Mr. Buchanan as President, in 1856, the year in which I entered the public service at Washington. He had been four years a member of the House of Representatives from Kentucky, having been elected to that body in 1851. He was, in person, an elegant, high-bred Kentucky gentleman, over six feet in height, straight and lofty in his carriage, youthful and dashing—more like a Highland chieftain than a grave legislator. He was exceedingly affable, pleasant, and polished in his intercourse with his fellows, except under the excitement of heated debate. He would then bound over all barriers, as a knight rushing upon his foe, regardless of personal peril, and intent only on the blood of his victim. This impetuosity of temper in debate frequently involved him in personalities which required settlement outside of the House.

Near the end of his service in the House this uncontrollable fire resulted in a serious quarrel with Francis B. Cutting of New York, and a challenge passed between them. Breckinridge spent a week or ten days in unknown retirement at Silver Spring, the house of Francis P. Blair, senior, five miles out of Washington, in preparation for the encounter, which, however, never came off. The friendship which Mr. Blair showed to the young Kentuckian at this time was remembered, years afterward, when Jubal Early and Breckinridge halted their rebel army for the night at Silver Spring, on their way to attack Washington. They burned to the ground the house of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster-General under Lincoln, but they spared that of his father, although they drank up all the wines and ate all the good things they found in it, celebrating in advance the sure victory of the morrow, which their tarry for the night turned into defeat.

Mr. Breckinridge had in a remarkable degree the characteristics of his blood. He was born of one of the oldest and most celebrated

families of Kentucky, and he and his admirers were wont to boast that in him had been bred the blood of those families to a higher perfection than in any other of her sons then in public life. He was a genuine Kentucky thoroughbred, and exhibited in a marked degree the points of his lineage. He was distinguished more for personal impressiveness of speech and manner, of figure and address, than for intellectual power, and would be classed, not with the constructors of institutions, but rather with those who fashion and polish what others design and rough-hew.

He was, however, notwithstanding these pretensions, a general favorite. Everybody likes a full-blooded Kentuckian. After four years' service in the House of Representatives he was appointed minister to Spain; he was elected Vice-President at thirty-five, was the candidate of the Democratic party for the Presidency at thirty-nine, and was elected senator at forty. In the Confederacy, after he was expelled from the United States Senate for disloyalty, he was a major-general the same year, and secretary of war about four years later.

He was an honorable and (if there is any distinction in the two words) an honest man, and was conscientious in the discharge of every official duty, never betraying a trust and never doing a mean thing to advance a cause, however infatuated and blinded in its espousal. When the time came, as it did at last, that his convictions would no longer permit him to stand with the Union, he did not sneak away like a thief, as did Floyd and Thompson when they could no longer serve the rebellion in the official robes and with the official opportunities of the Union. Nor did he follow Twiggs in the footsteps of Arnold, in a traitorous surrender of the post he had been intrusted to defend; but openly, before the world, he announced his convictions, and left the office and the cause he could no longer serve for the field, taking up the sword, as a soldier might, for what he deemed the right.

While he was yet Vice-President, the opportunity came to him which came to no other man during the war, to turn order into chaos and to wreck the Union by the forms of an official edict. Nevertheless, though all his sympathy and nearly all his blood were on the side of the Confederacy, he resisted the temptation, and

July  
1895



discharged, with Roman fidelity, the duty imposed on him by the Constitution, and the nation was saved. This act, in my judgment, goes far to condone the errors of his after life.

The occasion to which I refer was when the time had arrived for determining officially whether Lincoln was elected — over whose election the South had already gone to war. There had been a wide-spread conviction during the whole winter that there existed a conspiracy to prevent, by fraud or violence, a declaration of the result by the Vice-President in the presence of the two Houses, as provided by law. The very uncertainty as to what means would be resorted to — whether the certificates would fail to appear upon that day; whether they would be wrested by violence from the hands which bore them across the rotunda from the Senate-chamber to the hall of the House, or would be manipulated or suppressed by the only official who could open them, that official being himself a candidate, and known to be in sympathy with the rebellion; or whether, at the last moment, he would refuse to declare the result — all this contributed to fill every patriotic heart with anxiety and fearful forebodings. But Mr. Breckinridge, whatever part he may have resolved ultimately to take if the war should continue, turned a deaf ear to those who tempted him to betray this sacred official trust. A breathless silence, painfully intense, pervaded the crowded chamber as he arose to make declaration of the result of the election. It was a supreme moment. The galleries were packed with hostile conspirators, but, interspersed among them, unknown to them and to the Vice-President, were a hundred armed policemen, selected from those most trusty in New York and Philadelphia. The Vice-President was pale and a little nervous, but firm on his feet and unfaltering in his utterance. With a voice which dispelled the oppressive stillness, he said, "I therefore declare Abraham Lincoln duly elected President of the United States for the term of four years from the fourth day of March next." And thus the dead-point of peril was passed in safety.

Mr. Breckinridge continued in the service of the Union a few months longer as a senator during the extra session in July called by Mr. Lincoln after the rebels fired on Sumter. During that brief session he strove to satisfy the public judgment that the South had just ground for its course, and that, under the Constitution, there was no remedy for it, or help for the Union. He satisfied only himself, and sadly failed to convince others. One of the debates in which he took part in that session was so dramatic in some of its features that the impression it made upon me is still vivid. It oc-

curred a few days before the disaster at Ball's Bluff, in which the lamented Baker, one of the most effective orators who ever sat in the Senate, was killed. Breckinridge had taken the position in debate that the Constitution had made no provision for the exigency which confronted us, and was pressing for an answer to his question. "What will you do with us if you do conquer us? We can still vote. What hinders the vanquished from marching from the battle-field in solid column to the ballot-box, and beating you there, if we shall number there more than you do? You may defeat us in the field, but you cannot disfranchise us till after conviction and judgment of court; and you cannot do that till you have tried us by twelve of our own peers in the very State whose people have themselves revolted. So while you may conquer us in arms, we will afterward conquer you at the ballot-box." At that moment Baker entered the Senate-chamber in full uniform, fresh from his command at Ball's Bluff, and, placing his sword across his desk, plunged at once into the debate. The garb of the warrior in which he stood strangely emphasized the words of the legislator when he fiercely hurled back the answer, "We will govern you as conquered provinces." These men parted for the last time that day. A few days later one sealed his devotion to the Union with his life-blood. It had been better for the other if he had not survived him.

Mr. Breckinridge did not greatly distinguish himself in the service of the Confederacy, into which he entered immediately after the close of this short extra session, and in which he became a major-general, and afterward secretary of war. The downfall of that government was the downfall of all his ambitions, and he had no courage thenceforth for new undertakings. His spirits seemed utterly to forsake him, and he withdrew from the world, living several years in retirement abroad, and returning to his old home at Lexington only a few years before his death, which took place in 1875, — a sad failure of a life of rare promise and of exceptional opportunities.

A scene at his death-bed was too full of pathos, and too replete with lessons taught by the mysterious mutability of human affairs, to pass unnoticed. His last illness was a long and lingering one, and his light went out slowly. It happened that, shortly before his death, Henry Wilson, then himself Vice-President, was making political speeches in the vicinity of Lexington; and it came to the ear of Breckinridge that he had made kind and tender inquiry concerning his former associate in the public service. The sick statesman was deeply moved by this manifestation of regard on the part of an old political opponent, and caused it to be understood that a visit would give him plea-

sure. Mr. Wilson accordingly made a detour for that purpose. It is related that the scene at the bedside as the two—each, as it proved, within almost a handbreadth of the end of his career—took each other by the hand, and spoke of the past, its successes on the one hand and its failures on the other, was exceedingly touching. I will not attempt to describe it: it was a scene for a painter.

I know of no two lives in all American history which have been ordered in such sharp and instructive contrast from beginning to ending as the lives of these two men. One of them sprang from one of the proudest and most aristocratic, as well as ablest and most powerful, of the ruling families of Kentucky; the other was of an origin so humble and obscure that it could hardly be traced. One was born at the open gate of fortune, influence, and opportunity; the other was born in the lap of squalid want. Both set out in life under the influence of a controlling ambition. One thirsted for glory and power and fame; the other to be emancipated from poverty and neglect. The career of Breckinridge lay along an even pathway lighted up from the outset with the encouraging smiles of influential friends, and overhung with tempting prizes, which he gathered thick and fast at every step; while Wilson began the ascent of a steep and rugged mountain-path alone, and toiled upward without help, beset by discouragements, confronted all the way with difficulties, and cheered by no light ahead or reward in sight. The Vice-Presidency came to Breckinridge almost by force of gravity, as ripe fruit drops into a basket ready to receive it; it came to Wilson as tribute to a life of toil spent in the uplifting of down-trodden humanity. A just people has placed the cypress upon the grave of one, and the laurel on the grave of the other.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN, Vice-President under Lincoln, was as unlike his predecessor in office in all the characteristics for which men are remembered as could well be. He was the son of a simple, plain farmer, of no pretensions, of scanty means, toiling hard to wring out of an unwilling soil the precarious subsistence of a numerous family. He had no other pedigree to show than that of hard-fisted, clear-headed, honest progenitors, as far back as the record goes. By the death of his father he was compelled to take entire charge of the farm during his minority, and thus lost the chance of a college education, for which he had made some preparation. Afterward he took up the law. He was not, therefore, a man of such culture as comes from classical education, or study of books, or contact with scholars and learned men. His long public career, however,

brought him so constantly into daily intercourse with public men that the instincts of a true gentleman were developed in a remarkable degree. Never losing that plain, simple, unaffected manner which belonged to the life his fathers had lived before him, he nevertheless acquired an ease, almost reaching gracefulness, in his converse with men and women, which came to be quite charming. He was a true gentleman—not a handsome, elegant gentleman like his predecessor, but one that every one recognized had no alloy in his composition, nothing but genuine sincerity in the hand he offered. Mr. Hamlin was a little under six feet in height, stocky in his build, and unusually swarthy in his complexion. Although always neat and tidy in his attire, he seemed entirely indifferent to fashion or style in his dress. He wore all his life just such clothes as he was wearing when I first knew him forty years ago. I never saw him except in a black swallow-tailed coat, and without an overcoat; and he clung to the old-fashioned stock long after it had been discarded by the rest of mankind. He was an inveterate smoker, using a clay pipe in his room, and cigars only when abroad where others used them. He played cards incessantly—old sledge, whist, and euchre—till the day of his death, whenever he could find those who would join him in the game; but he would never gamble. He was no student of books—such men never are; but he was ever studying men and things, and few knew them better. His conversation was piquant, crisp, and pungent, but there never was any sting in it.

Hamlin was fond of a joke, and never spared an opportunity. He confessed, however, that a joke once cost him a United States senatorship. It happened in this way, he said. He was Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, and one day, during a very dull debate, as he sat listless in his chair, his eye fell on a prim, dapper little gentleman who had got himself up with unusual care, even for him, and had smoothed down his hair with pomatum till every hair was straight and fast. For the fun of it, Hamlin sent a page, with the compliments of the Speaker, to inform him that one of the hairs on the top of his head had got out of place and was lying crosswise. The member was angry, and sent back word that he would take no such insult from any man. No apology, no atonement, would appease him. The next year there was a vacancy in the Senate, and Mr. Hamlin came within one vote of election. That vote he could never obtain. It was the insulted member who refused to the end to vote for him, and his party was compelled to take another man. A few years later, however, another va-



cancy occurring, he was elected, the irate member having in the mean time disappeared.

Mr. Hamlin was always a favorite with the people of Maine. Poor, and without family or other influence to advance him, he was elected, to the legislature at twenty-seven, three years after he was admitted to the bar; was reelected four times, for three years of which he was Speaker of the House; was elected to Congress at thirty-four, and to the Senate at thirty-eight; was reelected in 1851; resigned in 1857 to be candidate for governor, and, after being elected, was reelected as his own successor. He was elected Vice-President in 1860, and was again senator in 1869, serving till 1881, when he declined reelection. In addition to these elective offices, he held, by appointment under Johnson, the collectorship of the port of Boston, resigning it after one year; and after he left the Senate, the post of minister to Spain under Garfield, resigning that office after two years' service, and retiring in 1883 to private life at his old home in Bangor, where he continued to live till his death in 1891. His public service of forty-seven years has few parallels. In every place to which he was called he acquitted himself with credit and without reproach.

Mr. Hamlin made no pretensions to oratory, but nevertheless he was a debater of uncommon force and skill. He was distinguished for the cleverness and the directness of his statement. His style was terse and crisp, with a good deal of the Yankee in the quaintness and aptness of his way of putting things. His long service and absolute integrity added great weight to his opinions and judgment. He, however, spoke rarely; but in all legislative business—of far more importance at all times than oratory—he ranked among the first, and as a political adviser he was a leader.

He was the soul of honor, as well in his private relations and public duties as in all political transactions. He was born a democrat, and remained through life democratic in every fiber and impulse. He identified himself at the outset with the political party which bears that name, and was brought into public life by it as a favorite of promise, of whom it was justly proud. He continued to act with it till the Kansas-Nebraska struggle of 1852, although always a hater of slavery, and chafing more and more every year under the increasing domination of the slave power. The repeal of the Missouri Compromise was the last straw with him. He was at that time chairman of the committee on naval affairs in the Senate, and, as such, in some sense the official mouth-piece of the administration in all matters pertaining to the navy which came before the Senate. Finding that he could not follow the administration in the course it was pursuing,

he refused to occupy an equivocal position, and in a speech of exceedingly broad statesmanship as well as political philosophy he pointed out the necessity of his retirement from the official relationship which he then held toward the administration. Thereupon he joined the minority, carrying with him the respect as well as the sincere regret of those he left. Among the early acts of Andrew Johnson after he became President was the appointment, as collector of the port of Boston, of the man to whose place as Vice-President he had, under an inscrutable dispensation of Providence, succeeded. But scarcely a year had elapsed before Johnson had so far departed from the principles of the political party which elected him as to be at open war with it. Mr. Hamlin had not a pulsation in common with Johnson in this struggle; but believing that the office he held was of such a character as entitled the President to a representative of his own political views, he unhesitatingly tendered his resignation.

His swarthy complexion, which his political opponents made use of in the South during the presidential campaign of 1860 to arouse and intensify the prejudice they had engendered against the "Black Republicans," did not annoy him. He was too much of a man to be troubled by such trifles. Yet on one occasion a speaker declared that "the Black Republicans had nominated a nigger for Vice-President." This was done in the presence of a former associate of his in Congress, then a personal and political friend, who sat on the platform, but who, when he followed, had neither the manliness nor the courage to rebuke or correct the slanderer of his friend. Mr. Hamlin publicly denounced this meanness.

In 1871, I was traveling with friends in California, and was induced to go on a two days' journey into the interior to see a petrified forest, with a promise that I could stop for the night at Calistoga,—a Californian resort,—where I could partake of chicken broth flowing perpetually from one spring, and fresh soda-water from another, and gather ink enough from a third to supply the world. On reaching this wonderful half-way station, and going to the hotel register, I found the names of Hannibal Hamlin and Horace Maynard on the record of the day before. Commenting with my friend upon these names, I was overheard by the landlord behind the counter. "Hannibal Hamlin," said he—"Hannibal Hamlin! It seems to me I have heard that name before. Did n't he run for some office somewhere once?" On my representing to him the distinguished character of the guests he had been entertaining, he gave me a look as much as to say, "You can't palm off any Cali-

fornia yarn on me"; and then broke out in a very uncomplimentary comment on the two strangers, one of whom he took to be a negro and the other an Indian. In a moment he saw that he had been saying something offensive; so he instantly apologized, and ended by inviting me to repair to the spring and take a bowl of chicken broth with him.

Mr. Hamlin was a true gentleman. Punctilious himself in the observance of all the requirements of gentlemanly intercourse, he was equally exacting of every courtesy due him from others. He permitted no man to be rude to him, or to assume the attitude of a superior. On one occasion one of the able men and leaders of the Senate, distinguished for a self-conscious, lordly air in his deportment, in the change of seats which occurs once in two years in the Senate-chamber had gained a seat by the side of Mr. Hamlin, and began at once to practise upon him those little exactions and annoyances which he had been accustomed to impose upon others. After a few days of yielding to these encroachments, Mr. Hamlin turned, and in a tone that did not require repetition said, "Sir, if you expect to be treated like a gentleman, you must prove yourself one." There was never occasion afterward to repeat the admonition.

The nomination of Mr. Hamlin for Vice-President came to him unsought and unexpected. We at Washington had no other thought but that Mr. Seward would head the ticket, and that Mr. Lincoln or some other Western man would be selected for the second place. Our hearts were broken with disappointment. The news of Mr. Lincoln's nomination reached Washington in the afternoon, that of Mr. Hamlin late in the evening. The intermediate time was spent in nursing our anger. But when the nomination of Mr. Hamlin was announced, a stormy multitude crowded his hotel, and forced him out upon the balcony. The night was gloomy, and the crowd was more so. But his first sentence, "What is one man in this crisis?" lifted the cloud, and let in the light. Before he ceased we were ready to lay aside our idol, and pledge our loyalty to a new leader.

The displacement of Mr. Hamlin and the substitution of Andrew Johnson on the ticket at Mr. Lincoln's renomination caused much discussion at the time, which was renewed with some bitterness upon the death of Mr. Hamlin. There was no mystery about it in Washington when it was done, and there would have been no dispute over it afterward had not the result proved so disastrous. Mr. Lincoln, from the beginning of his administration, felt the necessity of securing and preserving the support of the War Democrats; and with that end in view he was ever seeking place and oppor-

tunity for all of them who could be induced to take active part in the work he had on hand. Specially did he desire to broaden the base of the party which was maintaining the Union; and therefore a Unionist from the South had a double welcome. These views led him, with entire respect for Mr. Hamlin, and with the highest appreciation of his worth, nevertheless to think it wise that a more pronounced and recent War Democrat should be associated with him on the ticket. And when the way seemed to his friends to be open, in the person of Mr. Johnson, to secure this, and at the same time to refute our opponents' charge of sectionalism by a ticket from the North and the South combined, as had formerly been the usage, he felt that those who had brought it about, without any agency of his, had acted wisely in the selection which was finally made.<sup>1</sup> Just at that time, too, Johnson was a hero in the eyes of all Union men. He had fought in the Senate a terrific fight for the Union, and his life had been openly threatened on the floor of the Senate. A single incident will show how great was the confidence Northern men reposed in him. The Massachusetts delegation to the convention at Baltimore, which nominated him in the place of Hamlin, were supposed to have contributed to the result. Two of them visited Washington after it was over. They called on me, and I took the liberty of deprecating the action of the convention in this respect in as strong language as I could command. They went from my room to call upon Mr. Sumner, and brought back this message from his lips: "I only wish the ticket had been turned round." Hamlin's rejection wounded deeply a faithful public servant. But the wound bled only internally, for no visible sign of it was ever revealed to the public.

Mr. Hamlin was sent back into public service in the Senate by his State at the first opportunity, and continued, as senator and as foreign minister, till his voluntary retirement in 1883. The remainder of his life was spent at his home in Bangor with that dignity and simplicity of deportment which became his character and service, and with the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

His death occurred on the 4th of July. What could be more fitting than that such a life should come to a close on that day? He was the third of those who had held the Vice-Presidency whose lives ended upon the nation's birthday.

<sup>1</sup> For other views of Mr. Lincoln's attitude toward this nomination, see "Abraham Lincoln," by John G. Nicolay and John Hay, Vol. IX, page 73, and "Two War-Time Conventions," by Noah Brooks, in *THE CENTURY* for March, 1895.—EDITOR.

*Henry L. Dawes.*



## Hannibal Hamlin *Monitor* *Sept 21, '27*

THE unveiling at Bangor a few days ago of a statue to Hannibal Hamlin, the only Vice-President Maine has given to the Nation, recalls a statesman of the old school who rendered high service in the years when slavery was the chief subject of contention between the political parties. How much Lincoln relied upon his sane and mature judgment is indicated by the fact that when the President had finished his Emancipation Proclamation the first man to whom he read it was Vice-President Hamlin; and it is said, apparently with authority, that Lincoln accepted two of the three changes which Hamlin proposed.

That Lincoln and Hamlin held common views regarding slavery there can be no doubt. In an interview published long after the event, Hamlin told of his first interview with Lincoln in Chicago, soon after the election of '60. Lincoln receiving him cordially said he had never met Hamlin before, but had heard him speaking in the United States Senate in '48, "Your subject," said Lincoln, "was not new, but the ideas were sound. You were talking about slavery, and I now take occasion to thank you for so well expressing what were my sentiments at that time." To this Hamlin replied that strange as it might seem he had first seen Lincoln when, passing through the House of Representatives, he was attracted by a speech that was being made, also on slavery. Upon inquiry he learned that the speaker was Representative Lincoln of Illinois. "I heard you through," said Hamlin, "and I very well remember how heartily I indorsed every point you made." It seems there was good reason why Lincoln first read the Emancipation Proclamation to the Vice-President.

The notion, commonly and erroneously held, that Hamlin's failure of renomination as Vice-President was due to Lincoln's indifference, is without foundation. There is good evidence that the President expressed sincere regret when the news reached him that Andrew Johnson was to be his running mate in the momentous campaign of '64. The Republican leaders, it appears, solely for political expediency, chose a man from the South, believing that thereby the chances for victory would be greatly enhanced. While the ticket was triumphant, in the light of subsequent events there is reason for the conviction that many of the unhappy circumstances which characterized Johnson's administration would have been wholly avoided had the serious man from Maine succeeded Lincoln in the critical years following the close of the war between states.

Hannibal Hamlin ably served in the House and Senate of the United States, as Governor of his State, and as Vice-President, a service characterized by sound judgment, courage and a lofty purpose. He was a stalwart for the right.



## "HONORABLE HANNIBAL HAMLIN"

By David Page

ASK your friends who was Vice President under Lincoln and in most instances you will get some such answer as this: "I have forgotten. Seward was his Secretary of State and Stanton was Secretary of War, I know, but I can't recall who was Vice President."

The failure to recall this particular man cannot be blamed on his name. The day before he took the oath of United States Senator, Colonel Beuton, meeting him for the first time, put out his hand to the new Senator from Maine and said: "Honorables Hannibal Hamlin, of Hampden, Maine. Why, sir, your name ought to make you President some day."

How Hamlin was given the name Hannibal is interesting. His grandfather, Eleazar Hamlin, a farmer-patriot in Pembroke, Massachusetts, discovered that in the family records Biblical and symbolical names had been used—Job, Thankful, Ichabod, Content. But, being an original man, he departed from this custom in naming his children. He knew history and named one of his oldest sons for the Roman general, Scipio Africanus. But everyone called the boy Africa. Eleazar therefore named other children that followed America, Europe, and Asia. Twin sons received the names of Hannibal and Cyrus, in honor of the Carthaginian and Persian generals.

After the Revolutionary War several of Eleazar Hamlin's sons went to Maine to seek their fortunes. Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, father of Hannibal, settled in Livermore, not far from Waterford, where he heard that a physician was needed. Later Dr. Hamlin removed to Paris Hill, where Daniel Webster once taught school. Here, on August 27, 1809, Hannibal was born, and was named after Cyrus' brother, each of the twin sons of Eleazar having made an agreement to name a son after the other. It is interesting to note that Hannibal, the twin brother of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, named a son of his Cyrus—the Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, famous American missionary to Turkey and the founder of Robert College.

Hannibal Hamlin's name did not make him President, but he finally won the office next to the presidency. Between the life of Lincoln, whose adviser he was while Vice President, and Hamlin's career there are certain similarities: Both knew hard work in youth; both in young manhood resolved to hit slavery a blow when the chance came; both entered the law.

Hamlin wanted to go to college but, because of the illness of an older brother, who was unable longer to do the work on his father's farm, which was managed in connection with the medical practice, the younger son had to return home from the preparatory school. But at home he had the advantage of the companionship of Governor Enoch Lincoln, who was living at the Hamlin household. Lincoln had one of the best private libraries in the State of Maine, and he gave young Hamlin access to it. The boy was busy during the day, but after the work was done he read eagerly the biographies of famous men and books on history.

His ambition to go to college was still alive when he was eighteen. He did some surveying and school-teaching to earn money for this purpose. By the time he was twenty he had made up his mind to be a lawyer. Then came the death of his father and he was called to assume leadership at home. In 1830 he became a partner of a newspaper firm in Paris Hill. Hamlin learned printing in two weeks and became the printer. At the same time he was writer, farmer, and law student. He used to refer to this experience as his college education.

He soon sold out his interest in the paper and devoted himself to the study of law in an office of a Portland firm, which he entered in 1832. Samuel Fessenden, the head of the firm, was the outstanding antislavery

and devoted himself to the study of law in an office of a Portland firm, which he entered in 1832. Samuel Fessenden, the head of the firm, was the outstanding antislavery advocate of the State of Maine. At this time the young law student formed a friendship with Neal Dow, who was entering his picturesque career as a temperance reformer.

On returning to Paris Hill, in the spring of 1833, he was admitted to the bar. He was married in December and he and his wife went to Hampden, after a short residence in Lincoln. There this twenty-four-year-old "uncommon kind of man" opened a law office. "He stood six feet, straight as an arrow," the master of the village academy said of him. "There was about him the natural air, simplicity, and nobility of an Indian sachem. There was a great power, too, in the steadfast look of his big black eyes." He established principles of honesty in his law practice and made a reputation as a speaker.

His law career came to an end in 1843 when he entered politics. He was elected to Congress as a Representative, after having served in the state legislature. In Congress, as in Maine, he opposed slavery and made a speech in the House which helped to kill dueling. The antislavery Democrats rallied about the thirty-six-year-old leader and in 1845 brought him forward as their candidate for the United States Senate. He lost by one vote because he refused to modify his opposition to slavery.

Three years later he was elected to the Senate. Abraham Lincoln, then a member of the House, was an interested listener to his first antislavery speech as a Senator. Soon after Hamlin took his seat in the Senate, he heard Lincoln make a speech in the House. It was not until after the presidential campaign of 1860 that Hamlin and Lincoln met. Almost the first thing that Lincoln said was in reference to the speech which Hamlin made on the Oregon Compromise Bill.

Hamlin was chosen governor of Maine in 1856 and served only a few weeks in 1857, then resumed his seat in the Senate. He was swept into the office of Vice President against his wishes. His prominence in Maine political affairs, the publication of his speeches against slavery in papers controlled by Republicans, whose ranks he had joined, and the fact that an Eastern man was needed as a running mate of Lincoln, a man of the West—all helped to give him the nomination, which was a surprise to him. He had expected Seward to be nominated.

After the election Hamlin received an invitation from Lincoln to visit him in Chicago, where Lincoln told Hamlin that he was willing to accept any advice he had to give him. Hamlin pledged himself to be a friend to Lincoln. During the early part of the administration Hamlin urged the President to issue a proclamation of emancipation freeing the slaves. In the summer of 1862 Lincoln concluded to yield to his advice and read a paper to Hamlin. Hamlin made three suggestions, two of which were accepted. Vice President Hamlin probably rendered Lincoln his most distinguished service during the gloomy winter of 1862-1863.

Hamlin failed to receive the nomination in 1864 and accepted the position of collector of the port of Boston. Later he was sent to the Senate and made his last important speech in that body in February, 1879. He was minister to Spain in 1881-1882, and spent his last years in retirement at Bangor, Maine, where he died on July 4, 1891, one of the last who were intimately acquainted with Lincoln.



PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE  
PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT OF THE  
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF THE PRESBY-  
TERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.  
1009 SLOAN STREET, CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND.

**Son of Lincoln's Aide Dies**

Bangor, Me., Mar. 6 (AP)—Hannibal Hamlin, 79 years old, son of Lincoln's vice-president of the same name and a former attorney general of Maine, died in a hospital tonight of injuries received February 25th in a fall down the cellar stairs of his Ellsworth residence.

## HANNIBAL HAMLIN DIES

Son of Vice President Who Served  
with Lincoln

Ellsworth, Me., March 7—(AP)—Death has severed another link with Abraham Lincoln in the passing of Hannibal Hamlin, son of the Emancipator's Vice President of the same name, in a Bangor hospital last night.

As a small boy Hamlin was dandled on Lincoln's knee while the Civil War President and his chief aid talked over problems of those troubled days.

Hamlin, 79, apparently was recovering from a skull fracture resulting from a fall in his home February 25.

A one-time Attorney General of Maine, he was active in his profession until the accident.

## Hannibal Hamlin's Estate \$1,500,000

1938  
ELLSWORTH, Me., March 12 (AP).—Hannibal Hamlin, son of Abraham Lincoln's Vice President, left an estate valued at \$1,500,000, his will, filed for probate, disclosed today.

It contained numerous public bequests, including gifts of \$20,000 to Colby College, \$10,000 to Boston University and \$5,000 to the University of Maine. Relatives in various parts of the country received the bulk of the estate.

Hamlin, H.

# Lincoln Running Mate Of '61 Long Forgotten

BANGOR, Me.--(NEA)--Millions of U. S. school children celebrate Lincoln's birthday Thursday, but few, if any, even remember the name of his running mate, the man who helped him frame the Emancipation Proclamation.

Except here in Bangor where he lived most of his life, Hannibal Hamlin is the forgotten man of the Civil War. Even in Paris Hill, the southern Maine town where he was born in 1809, few remember him.

Hamlin grew up in the backwoods country around Paris, attended Hebron Academy, managed his father's farm for a time and ran a weekly newspaper in Paris before studying law.

## Foe of Slavery

He was admitted to the bar in 1833 and turned his attention to politics as an anti-slavery Democrat.

In the Maine legislature he served as presiding officer from 1836 until 1840, and in 1843 went to Washington as a member of Congress. In 1848 he moved up to the U. S. Senate.

He resigned from the Senate to run for governor of Maine on the Republican ticket, won, and took office Jan. 8, 1857, only to resign a month later to return to the Senate where he could carry on his anti-slavery fight. In 1861 he resigned from the Senate

after his election as vice-president under Lincoln.

The G.O.P. convention of 1864 failed to renominate him or he might have become president. Instead he became collector of the Port of Boston from 1865 to 1886.

In 1869 he returned to the Senate, remaining until 1881 when he resigned to become minister to Spain. Three years later he retired after a career in public life lasting nearly 50 years.

## Died Playing Cards

From then until his death he lived quietly, taking little interest in public

affairs. He spent much of his time at the Tarratine Club here, which he founded. He died at the club July 4, 1891, during a game of cards with old friends.

None of Hamlin's descendants live in Bangor today. A great-grandson, Dr. Hannibal Hamlin, is a Boston surgeon, and another member of his family, Miss Louise Hamlin, lives at Belfast, Me.

Bangor has grown past his old farm and it is now part of the city. The house is used by the Bangor Theological Seminary. There is a historical marker on a tree near it to identify it for the curious.

A statue stands in a city mall and there is a school named after him. Each year school children compete for the Hannibal Hamlin essay

award. But there is little else to remind the nation of Lincoln's forgotten vice-president.



Served with Lincoln—

# Forgotten Man Is Hannibal Hamlin Who Was Vice President of U. S.

## Fought Extension Of Slavery

BANGOR, Me., Feb. 12 (NEA)—Millions of U. S. school children celebrate Lincoln's birthday today, but few, if any, even remember the name of his running mate, the man who helped him frame his famous Emancipation Proclamation.

Except here in Bangor where he lived most of his life, Hannibal Hamlin is the forgotten man of the Civil War. Even in Paris Hill, the southern Maine town where he was born in 1809, few remember him.

Occasionally a tourist asks directions to his birthplace; more are interested in another house nearby, scene of a murder.

### Some Remember

There still are a few men here who can remember Hamlin as he was after he retired from politics in 1883.

Col. Harry M. Smith, who played with Hamlin's grandsons while a boy, recalls going to the Hamlin farm to "tred hay." Hamlin supervised the work dressed in a tall silk hat and cutaway coat.

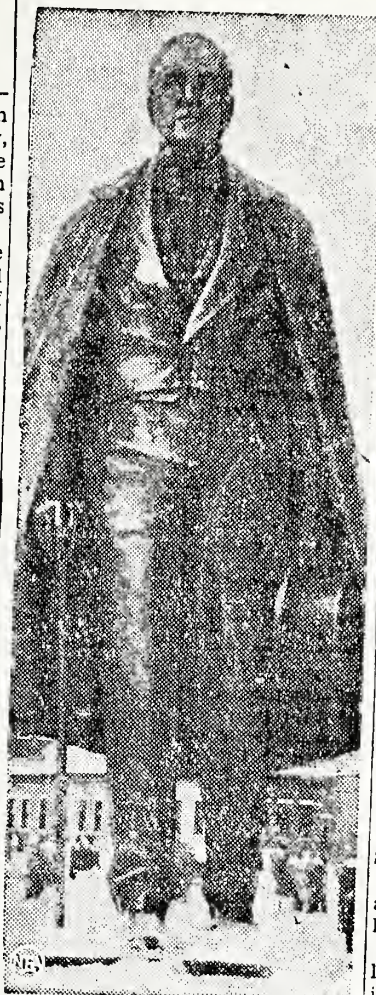
Col. Smith remembers Hamlin as a democratic man, and C. S. Seavey, who once worked for the family, described them as "common people."

Hamlin grew up in the backwoods country around Paris Hill, attended Hebron Academy, managed his father's farm for a time and ran a weekly newspaper in Paris before studying law.

### Admitted to Bar

He was admitted to the bar in 1833 and turned his attention to politics as an anti-slavery Democrat.

In the Maine legislature he served as presiding officer from 1836 until 1840, and in 1843 went to Washington as a member of Congress. In 1848 he moved up to the U. S. Senate.



**HANNIBAL HAMLIN:**  
Even the snow hides his name on his statue in Bangor, Me.

Hamlin took a prominent stand in Congress against extension of slavery.

When the Wilmot Proviso, prohibiting slavery in any of the territory gained from Mexico after the Mexican War, was scheduled

## Helped to Frame Famed Proclamation

for introduction in Congress, Wilmot was detained at the White House.

Hamlin heard of it and at the last moment introduced the Proviso as an amendment to a bill granting Mexico \$2 million. It passed 115-106.

### Joins Republicans

When the Democrats endorsed the Kansas-Nebraska bill, he withdrew from the party and joined the newly-organized Republicans.

He resigned from the Senate to run for Governor of Maine on the Republican ticket, won, and took office Jan. 8, 1857, only to resign a month later to return to the Senate where he could carry on his anti-slavery fight.

In 1861 he resigned from the Senate after his election as vice president under Lincoln.

The GOP convention of 1864 failed to renominate him or he might have become president after Lincoln's assassination.

Instead, he became collector of the Port of Boston from 1865 to 1868. In 1869 he returned to the Senate, remaining until 1881 when he resigned to become Minister to Spain.

Three years later he retired after a career in public life lasting nearly 50 years.

From then until his death he lived quietly, taking little interest in public affairs.

Bangor has grown past Hamlin's old farm and it is now part of the city. The house is used by the Bangor Theological Seminary.

There is a historical marker on a tree near it to identify it for the curious.

A statue stands in a city mall and there is a school named after him.

But there is little else to remind the nation of Lincoln's forgotten vice president.



### An Unknown Lincoln Incident

AN INTERESTING PROBLEM confronts the Lincoln scholars. The following is the remaining portion of a letter that presents its own question:

CHARLES HAMLIN,  
Counselor at law,  
9 Columbia Building  
Reporter of Decisions  
Supreme Judicial Court

Bangor, Me., April 12, 1896

Hon. George S. Boutwell:

My Dear Sir:

I beg to inform you that I am writing the life of my father, Hannibal Hamlin. I address you in the hopes that I may obtain some information on certain incidents in my father's career. I write in confidence because you were one of that stalwart group of Republican leaders whom my father honored above all his political associates and also because he reposed the highest confidence in you as a man and personal friend.

Shortly before my father's death he confided to me the information that the Radical Republicans offered him the nomination for President in '64 and that he declined because he favored Lincoln. My father's sudden demise prevented me from learning all the details.

As you returned to Congress in '62 it has occurred to me that you might have heard of this affair and might, therefore, know the men who made the offer. The opposition of Senator Wade and Henry Winter Davis to Lincoln was . . .

(The letter is incomplete.)

It would seem that aged Hannibal Hamlin would not likely lie to his son nor would the son likely risk his father's reputation, especially to Boutwell, unless he believed it to be true.

Long and patient inquiry has turned up nothing beyond this much of the story. Do any of our members know any further details of this incomplete incident?

2/12/28  
PICTORIAL REVIEW *Newark Sun, Call*



HANNIBAL HAMLIN, Vice President.









# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
46801

Number 1617

Fort Wayne, Indiana

November, 1972

## Hannibal Hamlin — Lincoln's Vice President (First Term)

Murat Halstead, a correspondent for the Cincinnati *Commercial*, made a circuit of all the national political conventions in 1860, and, after reporting in detail from Chicago the characteristic scenes and memorable events of Abraham Lincoln's nomination for the presidency on the Republican ticket, he made the statement that, "The nomination of (the) Vice-President was not particularly exciting." Hannibal Hamlin of Maine had only one competitor who made any show in the race, and that was Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky. The other candidates were Nathaniel P. Banks, A. H. Reeder, John Hickman, John M. Read, Henry Winter Davis, William L. Dayton and Sam Houston.

If the multitude in the convention hall could have had their way, Clay would have been nominated by acclamation; however, Hamlin possessed the attributes to strengthen the ticket; namely, he was a good friend of William H. Seward ("The fact of the convention, was the defeat of Seward rather than the nomination of Lincoln"), he was geographically distant from Lincoln and was once a Democrat. On the second ballot, Hamlin won the nomination by 367 votes to 86 for Clay and 13 for Hickman.

Clay congratulated Hamlin on his vice-presidential nomination in a letter dated May 22nd and Hamlin replied as follows on May 26th:

"Your very generous note of congratulations of the 22nd came duly to hand. I thank you truly, sincerely for the confidence you so kindly express, and am profoundly grateful to all my friends. Still I say to you in truth, that the position assigned by the Chicago Convention is one which I did not desire. I really would have preferred to have seen it conferred upon yourself. But as a true man, and a friend to the cause, I must not now shrink from it. I hope yet to live to do the Cause some effective good. At all events, I feel confident it shall receive no injury at my hands."

Hamlin's nomination for the vice-presidency was a surprise for him as he had pledged his lieutenants to keep his name entirely out of the convention. The nomination came about largely through the efforts of his political associates at Washington. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 295, *Honorable*

*Hannibal Hamlin of Hampden*, December 3, 1934.)

A candidate for the presidential nomination, Edward Bates, of St. Louis, Missouri, who later became Lincoln's Attorney General, was criti-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

**Hannibal Hamlin**  
Republican candidate for  
Vice-President of the United States

A lithograph published by E. B. & E. C. Kellogg, Hartford, Conn. The names of Hamlin and Lincoln were often curiously associated in the anagram Abra/Hamlin/coln.

cal of the vice-presidential nominee. He recorded the following statement in his diary:

"Mr. Hamlin is not the right person. He has no general popularity, hardly a general reputation, and his geography is wrong. His nomination can add no strength to the ticket . . ."

Hamlin was born on August 27, 1809, the son of Cyrus and Anna (Livermore) Hamlin at Paris Hill, Maine. By profession, a lawyer, he served in the Maine legislature, was elected as a Democrat to Congress in 1842 and re-elected in 1844. He was next chosen to the U. S. Senate for

four years in 1848 and re-elected in 1851. He resigned in 1857 to be inaugurated governor, having been elected as a Republican. He resigned the governorship less than one month afterward, as he had again been selected for a six year term in the United States Senate. He resigned his Senate seat in January, 1861, having been elected vice-president on the Republican ticket with Abraham Lincoln.

Hamlin, while decidedly anti-slavery, regarded the institution beyond the legislative authority of the national government. His views on the political issues of 1860 made him a logical running-mate for Lincoln. As Vice-President during the Civil War, Hamlin presided over the Senate with dignity and ability and was always on cordial terms with the Sixteenth President.

Like Lincoln, he was vigorously opposed to the extension of slavery into new territories. In fact, Hamlin gave as his reasons for changing his party allegiance, the Democratic party's platform in 1856, which incorporated the doctrine "that the flag of the Federal Union, under the constitution of the United States, carries slavery wherever it floats." He stated that: "If this baleful principle be true, then that national ode, which inspires us always as on a battle-field, should be re-written by Drake, and should read:

'Forever float that standard sheet!

Where breathes the foe but  
falls before us,

With slavery's soil beneath our feet,  
And slavery's banner streaming  
o'er us.'"

Lincoln, after receiving the presidential nomination, could not recall ever having met Hamlin, and, on July 18, 1860, from Springfield, Illinois, he wrote him as follows:

"It appears to me that you and I ought to be acquainted, and accordingly I write this as a sort of introduction of myself to you. You first entered the Senate during the single term I was a member of the House of Representatives, but I have no recollection that we were introduced. I shall be pleased to receive a line from you."

While Hamlin could definitely recall having heard Lincoln deliver his famous "coat-tail" speech in the House of Representatives, and he



could remember him to be "the most striking looking man in Congress," he wrote his running-mate on July 23rd that, "although he was not sure, his recollection was that they had been formally introduced."

On November 8, 1860 (two days after the election), Lincoln again wrote Hamlin as follows:

"I am anxious for a personal interview with you at as early a day as possible. Can you, without much inconvenience, meet me at Chicago? If you can, please name as early a day as you conveniently can, and telegraph me; unless there be sufficient time, before the day named, to communicate by mail."

The final arrangements for the meeting were made, and the two candidates fixed the date of November 22nd to discuss, among other things, the formation of Lincoln's cabinet. Hamlin left Bangor by train for Chicago on November 19th. He arrived at his destination on the morning of November 22nd. His wife did not accompany him.

The President-elect's party traveled from Springfield to Chicago by train on November 21st. Included in the group were Mrs. Lincoln, Senator and Mrs. Lyman Trumbull and Judge and Mrs. Donn Piatt of Ohio. Enroute to Chicago, three short speeches were delivered by the President-elect at Lincoln, Bloomington and Lexington. Judge Piatt described the speeches as, "brief and all different."

Before leaving Springfield, Lincoln had corresponded with his old friend, Joshua F. Speed, of Louisville, Kentucky, who offered to visit Springfield to impart some information as to men and public sentiment. Lincoln suggested in a letter dated Novem-

ber 19th that Speed come to Chicago. He wrote his friend as follows:

"I shall be at Chicago Thursday the 22nd. Inst. and one or two succeeding days. Could you not meet me there? Mary thinks of going with me; and therefore I suggest that Mrs. S. accompany you. Please let this be private, as I prefer a very great crowd should not gather at Chicago."

Lincoln met Speed in Chicago at Speed's hotel, and he was offered a place in the cabinet, which the Kentuckian declined. Lincoln did make inquiries of Speed concerning James Guthrie of Louisville, who had served as Secretary of the Treasury under Franklin Pierce, as a possible selection as Secretary of War. Needless to state, Mary Lincoln and Fanny Speed visited in the Lincoln's presidential suite.

The President-elect's party resided at the Tremont House, and, when calling upon his running-mate, Hamlin found Lincoln alone in a room. "Mr. Lincoln arose, and, coming toward his guest, said abruptly: 'Have we ever been introduced to each other, Mr. Hamlin?' 'No sir, I think not,' was the reply. 'That also is my impression,' continued Mr. Lincoln; 'but I remember distinctly while I was in congress to have heard you make a speech in the senate. I was very much struck with that speech, senator — particularly struck with it — and for the reason that it was filled, chock up, with the very best kind of anti-slavery doctrine.' 'Well, now,' replied Hamlin, laughing, 'that is very singular, for my one and first recollection of yourself is of having heard you make a speech in the house — a speech that was so full of good humor and sharp points that I, together with others of your auditors, was convulsed with laughter.'"

While Hamlin accompanied Lincoln and the presidential party on a visit to the Wigwam, Post Office, Custom House and United States Court, the two men did not have a chance to discuss political matters. Finally, on November 24th, they secluded themselves with Trumbull at Lake View, home of Ebenezer Peck, and discussed cabinet business.

On November 26th, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln left Chicago at 9 A. M. and reached Springfield at 6:30 P. M. On the return trip, no ovations were received along the way on account of the rainy weather. Nevertheless, a reporter for the *Chicago Journal*, November 26th, wrote that Lincoln's return "is the delight of the reporters and a number of office-seekers, who have been lying in wait for him . . ." Mr. Hamlin left Chicago enroute to Washington, D. C. where he would attend the December session of Congress.

It has been reported that while in Chicago, Lincoln said to Hamlin: "You shall have the right, Mr. Hamlin, to name the New England member of the Cabinet." On December 24, 1860, Lincoln wrote Hamlin that: "I need a man of Democratic antecedents from New England . . . I think of Governor Banks, Mr. Welles, and Mr.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

#### Hannibal Hamlin

*The Christian Inquirer*, of New York City, in reporting Hamlin's death on July 4, 1891, lamented the fact that he was stricken at a club house card table with a pack of playing cards in his hand. The editors of the *New York Metropolis*, in reply to such absurd comments, reminded its readers that, "all theatre-going is not dissipation (Lincoln was assassinated in a theatre), nor is all card-playing gambling."

Tuck. Which of them do the New England delegation prefer? Or shall I decide for myself?" Needless to state, Hamlin assumed the responsibility for making the selection and Gideon Welles was his choice. He wrote Lincoln on December 29th that he had ". . . no hesitation in saying that . . . Mr. Wells (sic) is the better man for New England . . ." Welles received the Navy portfolio on March 5, 1861. However, it has been alleged that Lincoln "induced the Vice President-elect to choose Welles as his contribution to the cabinet."

This acquaintance so cordially begun at Chicago, ripened into a personal friendship and, during the turmoil of the Civil War years, Lincoln appeared to have the utmost confidence in his official associate. However, the position of Vice-President was essentially a powerless office, and the President, who had it within his power to confer significant posts of authority on him, gave him no important assignments. Hamlin never became an indispensable member of the party in power, and his name was hardly a household word.

During his term as Vice-President, Hamlin became a strong advocate of emancipation and, on June 18, 1862, more than a month before Lincoln informed his cabinet of his plans to issue a proclamation of emancipation, the President confided in Hamlin the plan and read the document aloud to the Vice-President.

On September 25, 1862, Hamlin wrote the President expressing "sin-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A caricature of Lincoln's Vice-President by the Ohio artist, James Albert Wales (1852-1886). Wales' political portraits have been described as, "incisive, sardonic, . . . well drawn and quite comparable to the best work being done."



cere thanks for your Emancipation Proclamation. It will stand as the great act of the age. It will prove to be wise in statesmanship as it is patriotic. It will be enthusiastically approved and sustained, and future generations will, as I do, say God bless you for this great and noble act."

Hamlin was to eventually find the office of Vice-President to be a position of frustration — an office of great inherent power, but one of no immediate power whatsoever. He preferred to be on the floor of the Senate with a vote (not just when there was a tie) and patronage to distribute. Hamlin wrote J. Watson Webb on November 29, 1862 that, "he would have declined the vice-presidential nomination had he been at Chicago."

Eventually, Hamlin became identified with the "Radicals" of Congress, and one historian has summarized the decline of his political availability as a Vice-President in 1864 as follows: "If his nomination in 1860 had been due largely to party exigencies, his failure to receive a renomination in 1864 may be attributed to the same cause."

A question which has long fascinated students of Lincoln's administration is whether or not the President played a vital role in Hamlin's defeat for renomination. H. Draper Hunt in his biography, *Hannibal Hamlin Of Maine, Lincoln's First Vice-President*, Syracuse University Press, 1969 stated that: "In my view, logic and the weight of evidence clearly establish that Abraham Lincoln played the leading role in Hannibal Hamlin's downfall in 1864." Hunt further asserted that: "For what the President deemed compelling reasons, Hamlin had to make way for Andrew Johnson." A grandson of the Vice-President, Charles Eugene Hamlin, the author of *The Life And Times Of Hannibal Hamlin*, The Riverside Press, Cambridge, 1899, takes a decidedly opposite view regarding his grandfather's failure to be renominated in 1864.

From the standpoint of excitement, the vice-presidential nominations in the 1864 convention were far more spirited than for the higher office. This was in direct contrast to the contest of 1860. On the first ballot, the vote was 200 for Johnson, 150 for Hamlin and 108 for Daniel S. Dickinson. Before a second roll call could be taken, the switching of votes led to the official result of 494 for Johnson, 27 for Dickinson and 9 for Hamlin.

An old politician had remarked in 1848, when Hannibal Hamlin was elected to the United States Senate, that, "Your name ought to make you president some day." The prophecy would have come true except for the last-minute shift from Hamlin to Andrew Johnson for vice-president in the Baltimore convention of 1864. (See *Lincoln Lore*, No. 684, *The Hamlin vs Johnson Contest*, May 18, 1942.)

After retiring from the vice-presidency, Hamlin served about a year as collector of the Port of Boston, then for two years he served as president

of a railroad (Bangor to Dover), and, finally, he was re-elected to the Senate serving from March 4, 1869 to March 3, 1881. After retiring from the Senate, he served for a brief period as minister to Spain. Eventually, he retired in Bangor and became an elder statesman and one of the last surviving personal friends of President Lincoln.

Senator Henry L. Dawes described Hamlin as, "a born democrat, an interesting conversationalist, and an inveterate smoker and card player." Dawes also mentioned as characteristic of the man that he wore "a black swallow-tailed coat, and . . . clung to the old fashioned stock long after it had been discarded by the rest of mankind."

William A. Robinson in his biographical sketch of Hamlin prepared for *The Dictionary Of American Biography*, Volume IV, page 197, describes his physical appearance:

"Hamlin had a stocky, powerful frame and great muscular strength. His complexion was so swarthy that in 1860 the story was successfully circulated among credulous Southerners that he had negro blood."

Hamlin was married twice: on December 10, 1833, to Sarah Jane Emery (died April 17, 1855) and on September 25, 1856, to Ellen Vesta Emery, a half-sister of his first wife. The former vice-president died on July 4, 1891. He was survived by his wife and several children.

Most biographers and students are in agreement that Hamlin's association with Lincoln was the most important phase of his long political life, at least, that is the way it seemed to him.

### Woman's Lib

Editor's Note: The propagandist would hardly research the writings of Abraham Lincoln for quotations to strike a blow for women's liberation. Lincoln was a man's man and he lived in a man's world, although he did occasionally have something nice to say about women. However, modern woman liberationists would likely brand Lincoln for his male chauvinism — an element that undoubtedly existed in his thinking that was typical for his day and age. A few random quotations provide us with some insight into what Lincoln thought about women in general and their problems in particular.

R.G.M.

### By No Means Excluding Females

"I go for all sharing the privileges of the government, who assist in bearing its burthens (sic). Consequently I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage, who pay taxes or bear arms, (by no means excluding females.)"

To the Editor of the  
Sangamo Journal  
New Salem, June 13, 1836

### To Do Right — In All Cases With Women

"I want in all cases to do right, and most particularly so, in all cases with women."

To Mary S. Owens  
Springfield, Aug. 16th, 1837

### Woman's Work

"... the very first invention was a

joint operation, Eve having shared with Adam in the getting up of the apron. And, indeed, judging from the fact that sewing has come down to our times as 'woman's work' it is very probable she took the leading part; he, perhaps, doing no more than to stand by and thread the needle."

Second Lecture on Discoveries  
and Inventions  
(February 11, 1859)

### A Business Which I Do Not Understand

"The truth is I have never corresponded much with ladies; and hence I postpone writing letters to them, as a business which I do not understand."

To Mrs. M. J. Green  
Springfield, Sep. 22, 1860

### God Bless The Women Of America

"... I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of woman were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war. I will close by saying God bless the women of America!"

Remarks at Closing of  
Sanitary Fair,  
Washington, March 18, 1864

### I Would Not Offer Her, Or Any Wife, A Temptation To A Permanent Separation From Her Husband . . .

"... Neither do I personally know Mrs. Hunt (Sallie Ward Hunt, wife of Daniel Hunt). She has, however, from the beginning of the war, been constantly represented to me as an open, and somewhat influential friend of the Union. It has been said to me, (I know not whether truly) that her husband is in the rebel army, that she avows her purpose to not live with him again, and that she refused to see him when she had an opportunity during one of John Morgan's raids into Kentucky. I would not offer her, or any wife, a temptation to a permanent separation from her husband; but if she shall avow that her mind is already, independently and fully made up to such separation, I shall be glad for the property sought by her letter, to be delivered to her, upon her taking the oath of December 8, 1863."

To Whom It May Concern  
Washington, April 11, 1864

### The Laboring Women In Our Employment, Should Be Paid . . .

"I know not how much is within the legal power of the government in this case; but it is certainly true in equity, that the laboring women in our employment, should be paid at the least as much as they were at the beginning of the war. Will the Secretary of War please have the case fully examined, and so much relief given as can be consistently with the law and the public service."

To Edwin M. Stanton  
July 27, 1864



Note: Lincoln's endorsement is written on a letter from Governor Andrew G. Curtin forwarding a printed petition, which appeared to him "just and reasonable." The petition of twenty thousand working women in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is to be found in *The Collected Works Of Abraham Lincoln*, Roy P. Basler, Editor, Vol. VII, 1863-1864, page 467.

### The Lady Would Be Appointed Chaplain

"This lady would be appointed Chaplain of the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, only that she is a woman. The President has not legally anything to do with such a question, but has no objection to her appointment."

To Edwin M. Stanton  
November 10, 1864

Note: Lincoln gave this communication to Ella E. Gibson (Mrs. Ella E. G. Hobart), who was an ordained minister. After being elected Chaplain and the election confirmed by the Colonel, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton declined to recognize the mustering on account of her sex, not wishing to establish a precedent.

### First Ladies Of The White House

A lithograph published in 1903 by Thomas H. Devereux & Company, Chicago, U. S. A. is entitled "Ladies Of The White House." Twenty-two first ladies are depicted in the picture. All are wives of the Presidents except Martha Jefferson Randolph (Jefferson's daughter), Harriet Lane (Buchanan's niece), Martha Patterson (Andrew Johnson's daughter) and Mary Arthur McElroy (Arthur's sister). Actually, there are twenty-eight first ladies (including wives and

hostesses) up to the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

The artist who created this composite picture for some reason failed to include Elizabeth Monroe, Anna Harrison, Margaret Taylor and Jane Pierce. Rachel Jackson should not have been included in the group, as she died a few months before her husband's inauguration. Neither is Martha Patterson included in most compilations.

The Franklin Mint is currently minting commemorative silver medals of "The First Ladies Of The United States." They are featuring forty, first ladies (wives of Presidents) with the exception of: Martha Randolph (Jefferson's daughter), Emily Donelson (married Andrew Donelson, Jackson's ward), Sarah Jackson (married Jackson's adopted son), Angelica Van Buren (married Van Buren's son), Harriet Lane (Buchanan's niece), Mary McElroy (Arthur's sister) and Mary McKee (Harrison's daughter).

An attractive 41 page pamphlet by Gertrude Zeth Brooks entitled *First Ladies Of The White House* accompanies the forty medals which are being struck by the Franklin Mint. The biographical sketch of Mrs. Lincoln follows:

### A Controversial Figure

"With her radiant prettiness and winsome smile, Mary Todd Lincoln had been accustomed to getting everything she wanted from her well-to-do parents. But during the Civil War, she not only fulfilled the

social obligations imposed by her position as First Lady, but also provided the comforts of home for her husband, Abraham Lincoln.

"The times were exceedingly painful for her. Edward, the first of three Lincoln sons to die, had passed away in 1850. Her husband was Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army, while her three half-brothers and her brother-in-law died fighting for the Confederacy.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Obverse and reverse of the commemorative silver medal of Mary Lincoln produced by The Franklin Mint, Franklin Center, Pennsylvania 19063. This is one of a series of forty medals of "The First Ladies Of The United States." Only one other medal in the Foundation's vast collection of Lincoln medallion art bears the likeness of Mary Todd Lincoln.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The first ladies are listed (back row left to right) as follows: Martha Washington, Martha Jefferson Randolph, Rachel Jackson, Angelica Van Buren, Leticia Christian Tyler, Harriet Lane, Mary Todd Lincoln, Eliza McCardle Johnson, Martha Patterson, Julia Dent Grant, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mary Arthur McElroy. (Front Row) Abigail Adams, Louisa Catherine Adams, Sarah Childress Polk, Dorothy P. Madison, Abigail Fillmore, Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Lucy Webb Hayes, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. Wm. McKinley.

Mary measured up to the pressures even though the strain eventually took its toll on her health.

"Though Mary soothed her husband during his term of office, she couldn't fully appraise the difficult political situations into which he had been thrust. She was at times unable to control her temper which terrorized the servants and estranged friends. She bought expensive clothing and jewelry. As a result of the death of her 11-year-old son, Willie, in 1862, Mary's life was even more tormented. The public chose her as a target upon which to vent its frustration with the Civil War, and she was accused of personal ambitions for power. After a third son, Tad, died of typhoid, Mary's last son, Robert, took legal measures to put her in a place of safety. She was pronounced insane by a jury after her son testified that she had not been normal since the assassination.

"In the custody of her sister, Mary's last years were spent in the house in Springfield, Illinois, where she and Abe had been married. On July 16, 1882, Mary Todd Lincoln died wearing her wedding ring engraved with the words: 'Love is Eternal.'"

# WAYDE CHRISMER

ADVERTISING - PHOTOGRAPHY - CIVIL WAR RESEARCH

BOX 371, BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014

Area Code 301 - 838-3288 — 879-9288



Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

September 2, 1973

Dear Dr. Neely

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your kindness not only in answering my letter about the Lincoln Penny plaque, but especially for the back issues of LINCOLN LORE, and for restoring my name to its mailing list.

Perhaps I can return the favor (as I always tried to return those of Dr. McMurtry; also will you please express my felicitations on his retirement, should you be in touch with him.)

Some years back, I bought from Borden Clarke, Old Authors Farm, Morrisburg, Ontario, a collection of Hannibal Hamlin material which he (and Goodspeed's) were fortunate enough to come by when the Hamlin library was broken up and dispersed by the heirs. Included in what I got was a portion of a blotter (bearing the Hamlin library stamp) which the Hamlin diary is supposed to state was used by Hamlin and Lincoln when they went over the first draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. I have never seen a copy of the Hamlin Diary, not knowing where it is, but the incident is supported on Page 159 of the book "Twelve Americans, etc." by Howard Carroll where an account of that reading is printed and wherein the President is quoted as saying, "Now listen to me while I read this paper. We will correct it together as I go on." This incident I see further supported in Number 1617 of LINCOLN LORE wherein is stated that "on June 18, 1862... the President confided in Hamlin the plan and read the document aloud to the Vice-President." Thinking that you might be interested in seeing a copy of the blotter-portion I am enclosing a rough Xerox copy of it. If it further interests you, I'll be pleased to have it properly photographed and the photo sent to you.

At the same time, I bought what Clarke says are two pencil sketches done by Hamlin and signed with the initials "H. H.". They are of President Lincoln and of Jefferson Davis (the latter presumably made when Hamlin and Davis were fellow Senators). Copies of them are also enclosed, and if you should want better prints for possible reproduction, I'll have them photographed as well as the blotter.

Clarke also sold me a two-volume set of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (first edition and with the Hamlin library stamp in Vol. I) which he says Hamlin recorded as having been read by President Lincoln, to whom he loaned



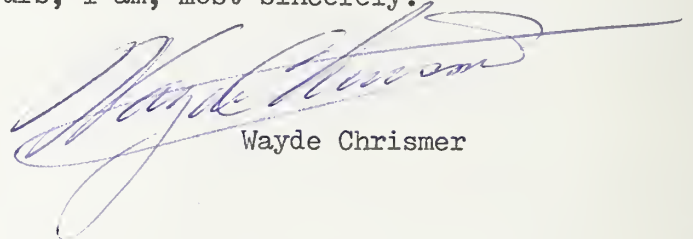
Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr. (Pg. 2)

them one at a time, later reporting (presumably in his Diary!) that "the Chief was a little upset when he learned that I had loaned the second volume to Seward and I had to go out and get another set.) The bindings are consequently mismatched on the set I have, the blind-stamped ornamentation on one cover not matching that of the first. They are NOT first issues--a set of which with a Stowe inscription I do have as well.

I cannot imagine what use you may be able to make of this "Uncle Tom" information, but I do hope the fact about the blotter and the two sketches may be of some use, as the tremendous wealth of Lincoln material at the Foundation suggests that no Lincoln grist is too small for your mill.

I look forward with much pleasure to "catching up" on the back issues of LINCOLN LORE, and meanwhile have written to the American Numismatic Association for complete information about the plaque. Should they turn up anything which seems to interest you--or suggests that it might interest you, rather--I'll send it on.

Again, gratefully yours, I am, most sincerely:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Chrismer", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Wayde Chrismer

WC:fw



The following is an excerpt from a letter written to Wayde Chrismer, of Bel Air, Maryland, by Borden Clarke, Old Authors Farm, Morrisburg, Ontario, Canada, from whom Mr. Chrismer had purchased twenty pieces of Hamlin-Lincoln memorabilia, including the first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" which Hamlin had loaned Lincoln to read, a portion of the blotter used by Hamlin and Lincoln when Lincoln made certain changes in the original Emancipation Proclamation. [For an account of the incident when the changes were made, see Page 159 of the book, "Twelve Americans, Their Lives and Times" by Howard Carroll, published by Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, New York, 1883". One of the "Lives" was that of Hannibal Hamlin, pages 117-168, the chapter being sub-titled "He Served The State" and it is in that account that the Emancipation proclamation blotter incident is described, the President stating: "Now listen to me while I read this paper. We will correct it together as I go on."

In his letter to Mr. Chrismer, Mr. Clarke wrote:

"I got them [the two volumes of "Uncle Tom". the Hamlin blotter, newspapers, books, correspondence etc.] out of the attic of Hamlin's old home in Bangor (now a Seminary) and had fun for a week. Apparently Hamlin loaned Uncle Tom to Lincoln...who then blamed Stowe for the Civil War..." [Actually, what Lincoln said to Mrs. Stowe when they met was: "So this is the little lady who brought on this great war!"]

It will be noted that attached is only a portion of the blotter which Hamlin had in his "leather portable secretary" as Mr. Clarke states in the carbon copy of a note he presumably made at the time he obtained the material. He does not state, but it is obvious, that the blotter had previously been used on other correspondence. the blue-colored writing being in an entirely different handwriting. Those portions which are in BLACK, when held up to a mirror, bear strong resemblance to Lincoln's own handwriting and are believed by experts to whom they have been shown to BE the blotted remnants of his script. The blotter, of course, picked up only those portions of his corrections which were still moist when the blotter was applied to the paper. Hamlin, having a strong sense of and respect for history, probably put the blotter away and never again used it.

Also included in the material bought by Mr. Chrismer from Mr. Clarke were original pencil sketches made from life of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, signed with the initials "H. H."

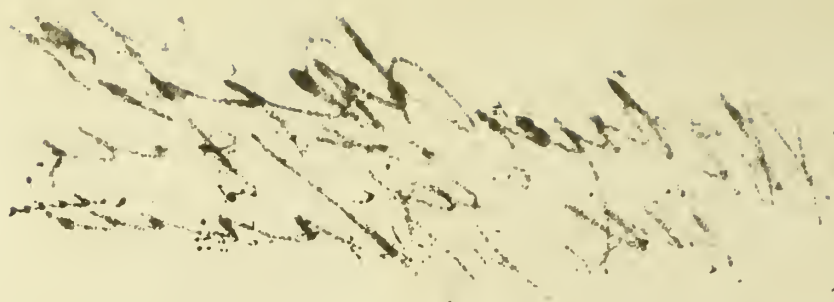
In his list 292, which advertised the sale of the Lincoln-Hamlin collection, Mr. Clarke wrote: "Long years ago when Young and Strong I packed 100 boxes in Hannibal Hamlin's Bangor Home and sold them world-wide. These I held aside as reluctant to part with. They should be in safer hands, at my age, so send a cheque and take them. I have been urged to put to Auction at 5 times this [price] but don't trust "auctions" and never will. Very briefly, to save costly space...THE 2nd 3rd 4th..." [He then describes the lot of items bought by Mr. Chrismer.]

[Signed: .....]

WAYDE CHRISMER,

Bel Air, Maryland, 21014

May 5, 1972



The large handwriting shown here is, of course, NOT Lincoln's. Traces of another, smaller hand, are visible in the original and, when held to a mirror, bear a strong resemblance to Lincoln's script. While quite a few emendations may have been made by Mr. Lincoln, only those portions of the words which still remained quite moist when the blotter was applied, would have been reproduced by the blotter. (A darker reproduction of the blotter is attached to this copy.)

Attached to same I wrote some years ago on last lot of Hamlin relics. They are all long sold except the remarkable Blotter which I found in his Official vice-presidential Portfolio (leather portable secretary with full Blotter and pockets for papers) and sold for a large sum.

I cut the blotter in 4 pieces so as to give 4 buyers a chance to have a piece. He had marked it in pencil as the blotter with which he corrected proofs of the Emancipation Declaration at request of Lincoln, before it was declared.

Note  
from  
Clarke



*[Handwritten signature/initials]*

Attached a memo I wrote some years ago on last lot of Hamlin relics. They are all long sold except the remarkable Blotter which I found in his Official Vice-Presidential Portfolio (leather portable secretary with full Blotter and pockets for papers) and sold for a large sum.

I cut the blotter in 5 pieces so as to give 4 buyers a chance to have a piece. He had marked it in pencil as the blotter with which he corrected Proofs of the Emancipation Declaration at request of Lincoln, before it was declared.

I have been very much interested in the Hamlin relics since I have been in the city.

*Handwritten notes:*  
16. 11. 72  
18. 11. 72  
19. 11. 72

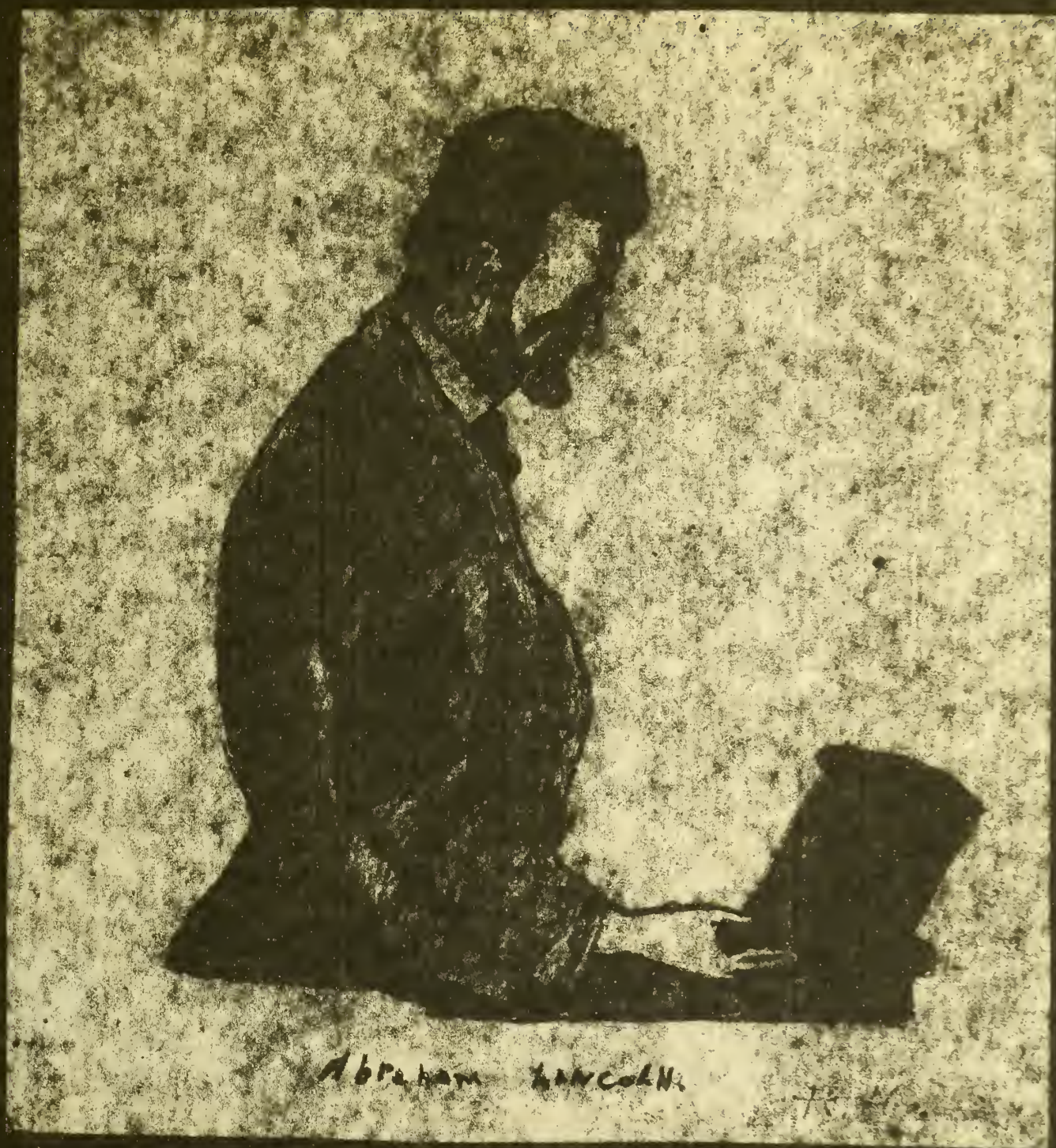




Abraham Lincoln.

Note that the initials H. H. show up very faintly here but are quite distinct on the darker copy (enclosed). These are PRINTED initials and of course bear no resemblance to Hamlin's handwriting.

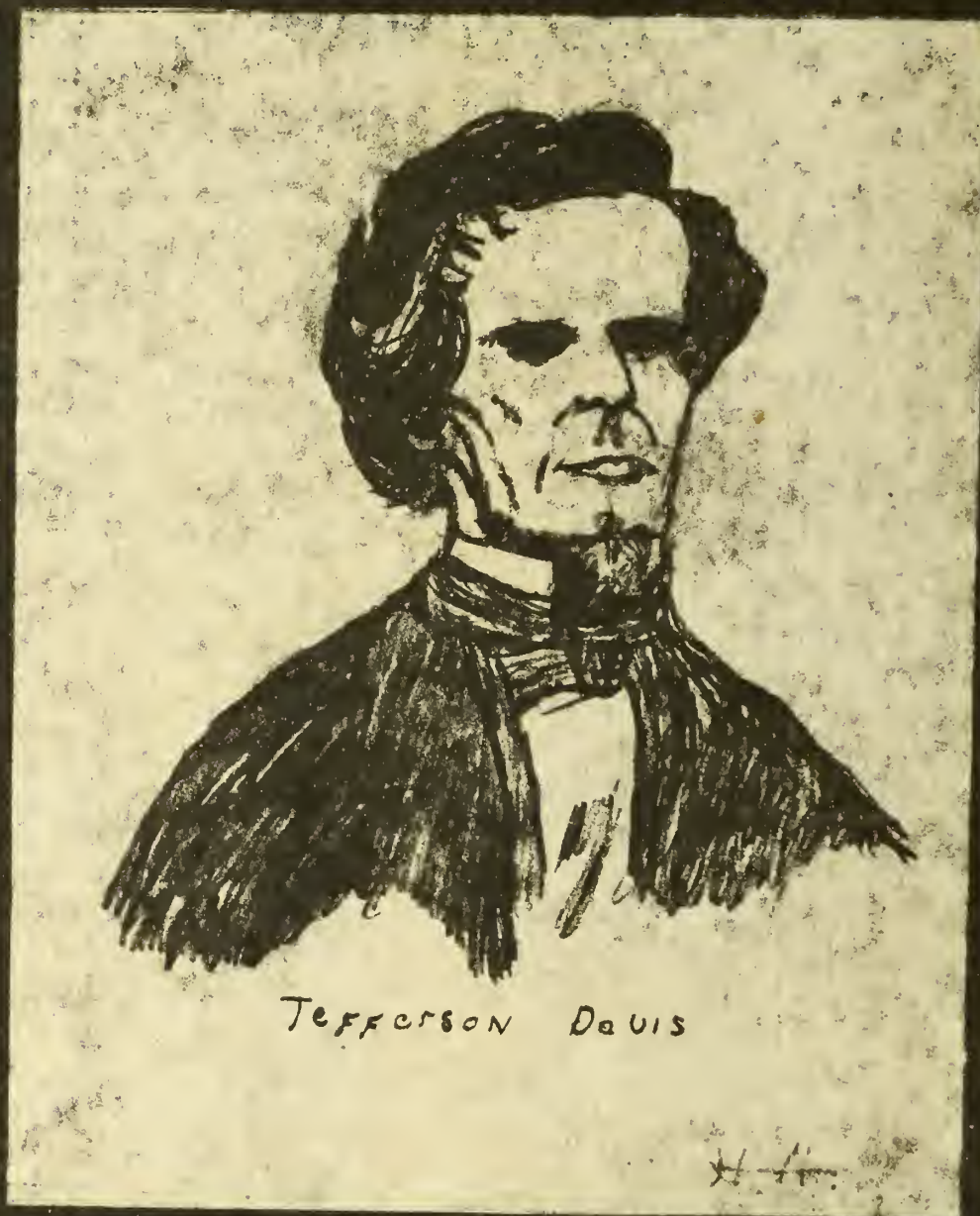




Abraham LINCOLN.

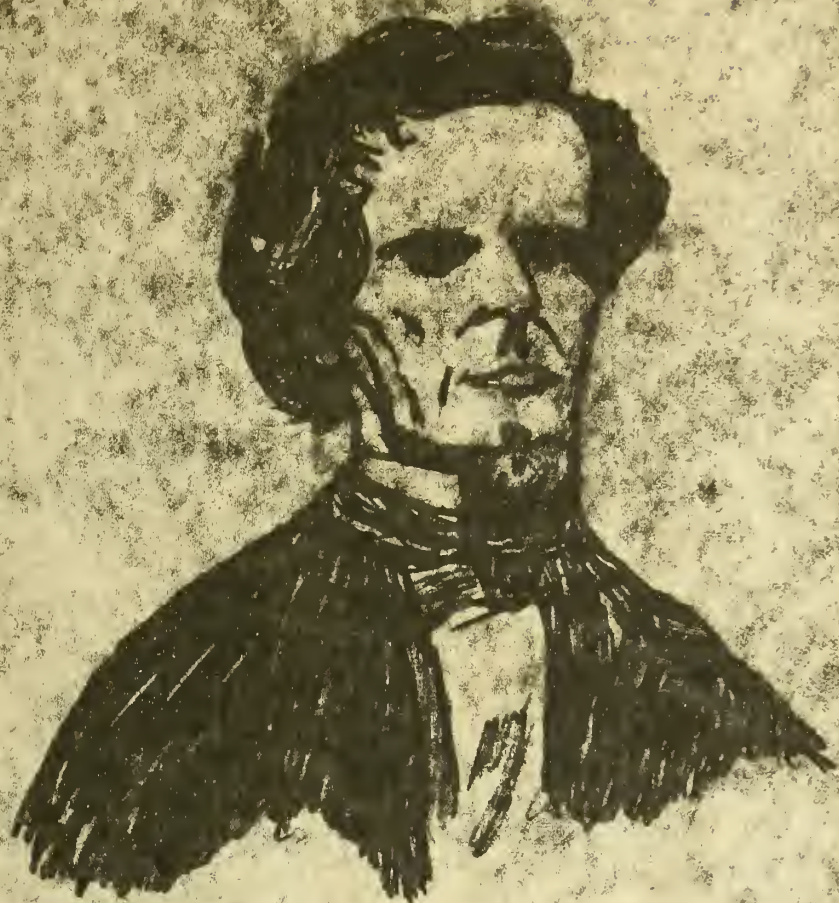
F. H.





Here the initials H. H., written with a darker pencil, or more heavily, appear much more distinctly than on the Lincoln sketch.





Jefferson Davis

1864

# Sun Journal

## Home of Lincoln's 1st VP up for sale

Saturday, December 9, 2006

BANGOR (AP) - The home of Hannibal Hamlin, President Abraham Lincoln's first vice president, has gone on the market for \$449,000.

The three-story dwelling, built in 1851 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features three parlors, six bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, marble mantelpieces, a mansard roof and a mother-in-law apartment.

In 1933 Hamlin's heirs donated the property at the corner of Fifth and Hammond streets to Bangor Theological Seminary, which has used it as a home for its presidents.

The theology school moved to the Husson College campus.

The Rev. William Imes, seminary president, last month took up residence in a smaller dwelling.

"The Hannibal Hamlin house is a big house that was way more than we needed for a residence for the president," Imes said. "It was an honor to own it, but maintaining it was a challenge. We'd like to get out of the challenge business."

Because of its listing on the historic registry, every repair and upgrade must conform to specific standards, adding to the cost, Imes noted.

"I valued my time in the Hamlin home as an opportunity to live in his house, but it was a lot like living in a museum," he said. "There were three rooms we almost never used."


Hamlin served as vice president from 1861 to 1865. A native of the western Maine town of Paris, he also served in the Maine House of Representatives, the U.S. House and Senate, and as governor of Maine.

---


Information from: Bangor Daily News, <http://www.bangornews.com>

AP-ES-12-08-06 1229EST





Un estilo de vida saludable puede  
ayudar a que su hijo tenga éxito  
Aprenda cómo en [www.MyPyramid.gov](http://www.MyPyramid.gov)



Friday, July 17, 2009 in Lewiston, Maine

SEARCH

# Sun Journal

Login | Register



Auburn-Lewiston:

Clear sky, 75.2 °F

## Hamlin's 200th birthday

By M. Dirk Langeveld, staff writer

Published: Jul 15, 2009 12:00 am

E-mail and share

PARIS — Has it been 200 years already?

As the 31st annual Founder's Day celebration approaches, the Hamlin Memorial Library and Museum's feature exhibit will be on the bicentennial of the birth of its namesake, Hannibal Hamlin. Abraham Lincoln's first vice president, Hamlin was born on Paris Hill on Aug. 27, 1809.



A bust of Hannibal Hamlin sits next to a portrait of Abraham Lincoln in the Hamlin Memorial Library and Museum in Paris.

On Saturday, information and artifacts related to Hamlin will be on display in the museum, which is located in the former county jail next to the house where Hamlin was born. In addition, the museum will hold a celebration on Paris Hill on Aug. 22.

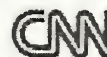
According to a family story, Hamlin had an encounter with another well-known Oxford County figure when he was an infant. As the story goes, the Hamlin family welcomed in Indian woman Molly Ockett during her travels, and she was able to heal a sickly Hamlin. She is also said to have foretold that he would be successful in his life.

I lost 25 lbs of  
stomach fat  
in only  
1 month

Read My Story  
Learn How I Did It

AS SEEN ON

rachaelray





That may not have been apparent right away, though.

"He was quite a prankster," says Ann McDonald, curator of the museum.

In one incident, attendees at a nearby baptism were surprised that the bell of the Baptist Church was ringing a funeral toll as each person was being lowered into the creek. Hamlin was found to be the culprit after someone noticed two of his friends giving signals to the bell tower with bandannas. Perhaps as an apologetic gesture, Hamlin donated a clock to go on the church tower in 1883.

Despite his mischievousness, Hamlin was influenced by the proximity of the courthouse and judges on the hill, which formerly served as the county seat. While attending Hebron Academy, Hamlin took up the defense of a few classmates who got into a fight with a drunken man and was successful in getting them out of trouble.

According to the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, Hamlin worked as a teacher, surveyor, and compositor in a printing office after school. McDonald says he apprenticed himself to a law firm in Portland before he started practicing in Lincoln and Bangor.

Hamlin first entered politics as a state legislator, serving there for six years, including three as speaker. He spent four years in the U.S. House of Representatives and eight and a half years in the Senate, resigning in 1857 to become governor of Maine. Originally a Democrat, he left the party in 1856.

McDonald says Hamlin had to resign as governor when he was chosen by the Republican convention to be Abraham Lincoln's vice president in the 1860 presidential race.

"I guess he was actually at the convention, but he wasn't there when they nominated him," McDonald said. "And he was equally surprised the next time, when they didn't choose him."

McDonald said Hamlin worked as a "behind-the-scenes adviser" in the Lincoln White House, and helped put together the Cabinet.

"He was a very strong abolitionist," McDonald said. "He

encouraged Lincoln to announce the Emancipation Proclamation." She said those views may have led to his replacement with Andrew Johnson, a Democrat from Tennessee, on the Republican ticket in the 1864 election.

Following his departure, Hamlin briefly served as collector of the port of Boston, spent another 12 years in the U.S. Senate and served as U.S. Minister to Spain for a year. Retiring to Bangor, he died on July 4, 1891.

This is not the first year a celebration has been planned for a major anniversary of Hamlin's birth. In 1909, a centennial celebration included the dedication of a memorial on the Paris Hill common and a speech by Joshua Chamberlain, who led a Maine division at the Battle of Gettysburg. At the sesquicentennial in 1959, U.S. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith spoke, and events included music and a historic house tour.

McDonald believes Hamlin's time on Paris Hill helped shape his work ethic, career and political opinions.

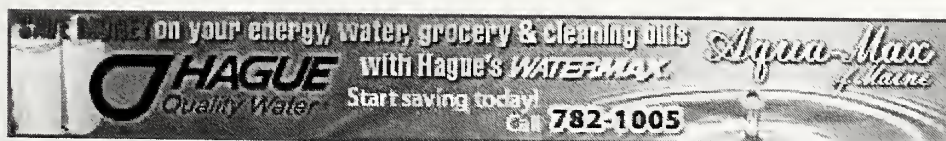
"He had a unique childhood here," she said.

[mlangeveld@sunjournal.com](mailto:mlangeveld@sunjournal.com)

E-mail and share

---

Login or register to post comments



## Lincoln.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

SO much has been written of Abraham Lincoln, of anecdote and reminiscence, it is difficult to add anything new or interesting. He was, indeed, a most wonderful man—one of the most distinguished of all the ages. A giant in intellectual ability, and in his nobleness of heart. He was a great and good man in everything that those words imply.

A few words on the first meeting of Mr. Lincoln and myself, when we came to know each other personally may possibly be of interest to some of your readers. We could each recognize the other, but, until the time named, we had never met.

After Mr. Lincoln had been elected President, in 1860, I received a letter from him—and the first one that ever passed between us—desiring and requesting me to meet him at the Palmer House, in Chicago, at a day which he named near the close of November, in that year. I replied that I would do as he requested. I arrived in Chicago on the day named, went to the Palmer House, and learned that Mr. Lincoln was there in his rooms. My card was sent to him, and I was immediately invited to his parlor. We met at its door, and readily and instantly recognized each other, although no word had ever before passed between us. I had but just entered the room, when Mr. Lincoln said: "Mr. Hamlin, have we ever been introduced to each other at any time?" My reply was: "Mr. Lincoln, if you had withheld your question for only one second, I should have asked you the same question, for I had it in my lips when you asked it." The ready response of Mr. Lincoln was, that, as he had first propounded the question, he would await my reply. I then stated that I had no recollection that we had ever before met or been introduced to each other, though I knew his person well when we met. "And that corresponds exactly with my recollection," was the response of Mr. Lincoln, adding that he, too, knew me instantly. We had often seen each other in Washington when he was a member of the House. So we settled it satisfactorily to ourselves that we each knew the other, but we had never been acquainted.

Mr. Lincoln's physical make-up was such as to aid any one, who had seen him, to recognize him thereafter. He was a tall and spare man, not remarkable for his personal beauty. But it was not that that made me recognize him so well and readily as I did. I then gave my recollection to Mr. Lincoln of the first time I ever saw him to know who he was. It was when I happened to be in the House of Representatives, when a member was addressing it. He was criticising and ridiculing in an in-

imitable manner, the military fame and pretensions of Lewis Cass. His wit was so keen and his humor so inimitable that I tarried and listened to the end. The speaker was Mr. Lincoln, as I learned on inquiry, and so I came to know him ever after.

While I was making this statement to Mr. Lincoln, I did not fail to notice a queer and thoughtful expression upon his face—an expression often afterward observed. "Well," observed Mr. Lincoln, "this is a world of strange coincidences, and our acquaintance makes one of them. You know," he said, "your name is inside of mine; the last syllable of my first name and the first syllable of my second name make Hamlin. So your name is inside of mine, and we should know each other." But this is not the coincidence to which he referred. It was the fact that he had occasion to be in the Senate one day, when a Senator was addressing that body against the extension of slavery into the territories of the United States. "His thoughts seemed to run in channels so near my own, that I sat down and listened to his speech, and fully approved of it. That Senator was Mr. Hamlin, and thus I learned to know who he was. A queer coincidence, was it not? Each came to know the other by hearing each other speak in Congress."

I remained in Chicago with Mr. Lincoln for several days, and went thence to Washington just in season to be in the Senate on the first Monday of December. During my tarry in Chicago, its hospitality was most bountiful, from breakfast in the morning to dining and feasting in the night at a round of brilliant parties. Mr. Lincoln attended all that it was possible for him to do, and it was my good fortune to be with him. Then it was that I began to learn of that infinite fund of anecdote which he possessed, and with what force he applied them to matters under consideration. Each anecdote was an argument and an illustration of the subject presented. Whether all these anecdotes had an existence in fact, or were coined from a fertile imagination for the occasion there was always some doubt in my mind. In the dark and gloomy hours of the war of the rebellion he was sometimes criticised and even censured for the use he made of his fund of wit and humor, but they were the safety-valves that preserved his life. They were well and wisely used as a relaxation of the mountain of care and responsibilities that rested upon him.





#74 Hannibal Hamlin



HANNIBAL HAMLIN,  
Republican candidate for  
Vice-President of the United States.

#3194 Hannibal Hamlin



HANNIBAL HAMLIN,  
LINCOLN'S VICE-PRESIDENT.

#3195 Hannibal Hamlin



Photographed at the WHITACRE GALLERY, Washington, D.C.

#2517- Hannibal  
Hamlin



HANNIBAL HAMLIN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1861-1865

From a photograph in the War Department Collection.





